

WHEN THE WHEELS FALL OFF

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Come Home Running

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Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

¹¹Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

²⁰So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

He _____.

"...set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living."

¹⁹Then the cares and anxieties of the world and distractions of the age, and the pleasure and delight and false glamour and deceitfulness of riches, and the craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless. **Mark 4:19 (AMP)**

[1 Timothy 6:10/Proverbs 28:14/Zechariah 7:11]

He _____.

"...longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything."

As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end. **Romans 6:20-21 (Msg)**

In those days you were living apart from Christ...you lived in this world without God and without hope. **Ephesians 2:12 (NLT)**

[Revelation 3:17/John 4:13-14]

He came to his _____.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!'"

He _____.

"So he got up and went to his father."

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. **Acts 3:19 (NIV)**

Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. **Ezekiel 18:31 (NLT)**

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. **Psalm 34:18 (NLT)**

[2 Cor. 7:10/Isaiah 55:7/Zechariah 1:3/1 John 1:9/Prov. 28:13]

He was _____ when he returned.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

The father _____ him.

The father _____ him.

The father gave him _____.

[2 Cor. 5:21/Romans 13:14/1 Tim. 1:14/Isaiah 53:6/1 Peter 2:24-25]