

PRODIGAL SON

There are so many roles in this famous story that it can be difficult to look afresh at the wisdom that it contains. The forgiving Father, the righteous and perhaps accurate brother, the servants and the larger community. There is much to admire.

Who would you associate with?

Perhaps the prodigal son

But then not

because of his arrogant stupidity

More because of his humble courage

When he left his Fathers farm he will have felt like a 17 year old with a new car

In control of the road

In control of the world

Then he crashed into the reality

Or maybe not crashed

Maybe slowly as he spent the money

The false basis for this self-esteem will have been spent

Then he is left with almost nothing

Simply the cruel insight

that he has made a complete mess of it

It is only now that he come to his senses

It is now that he shows profound wisdom

It is now that he shows such wonderful courage

“I will arise and go to my Father”

The goodness of accepting his failure

Of returning to a place that is all too familiar with his stupidity

Of stepping out of denial

Into a new beginning

and dealing with the consequences

It takes real strength of character to confront the reality

And act upon the penalties

As opposed to remaining in the misery

And blaming the world

In relationship

In faith

In personal development

There will be times

To go back

To begin again

To swallow pride

To live the liberation of forgiveness

The only person that the Father cannot forgive

Is the one

who is not prepared to recognise that they have done anything wrong

Or bear any responsibility

Be honest forgive yourself

And allow the Father to forgive you

Then on with the challenge of life

Then on

forward