

Lent: “Blessed Hunger, Holy Feast”

# IN SEARCH OF WHAT IS LOST

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

# In Search of What is Lost

*Jesus tells 3 parables in Luke 15*

The Lost Sheep (v.1-7)

The Lost Coin (v. 8-10)

The Lost Son (v.11-32)

God searches out the lost and reaches out with open arms to receive them when they come home!

<sup>13</sup> “Not 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.<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So 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. (verses 13-20)

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

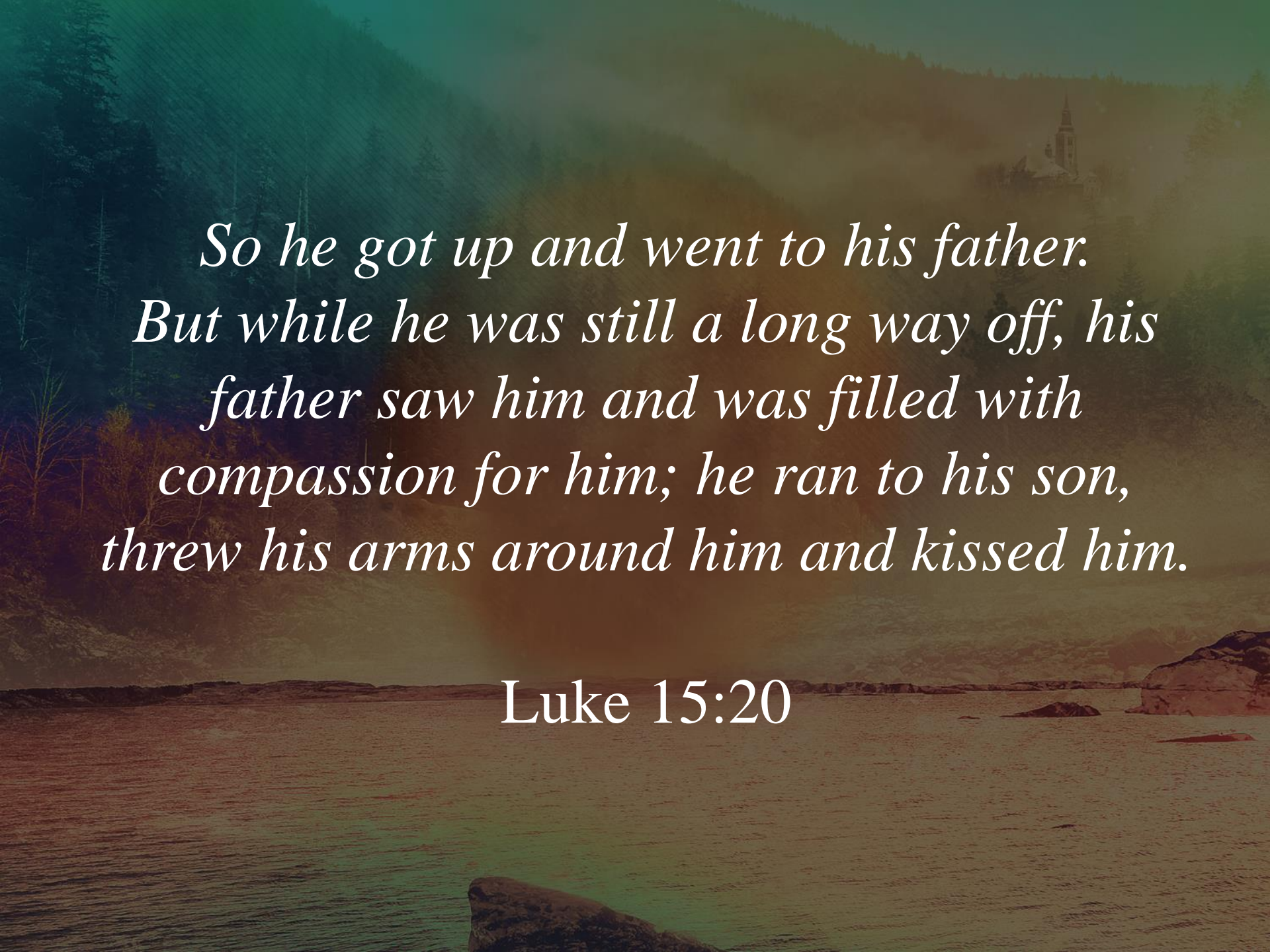
<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’” (verses 25-32)

**“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view... If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old is gone, and the new has come.”**

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

**God’s view and opinion of us  
is what really matters!**

A scenic landscape featuring a forested hillside on the left, a church with a steeple on a ridge in the background, and a body of water with rocks in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

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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.*

Luke 15:20

*“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”*

**1 John 3:1**

*“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

**1 John 1:7**

*“Don’t give up on these people,  
I love them just as much as I love you!”*

- Implication of Jesus’ parables in Luke 15

*“Blessed are they whose transgressions  
are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord  
does not count against them.”*

Psalm 32:1-2