

# *Prodigal Father: Extravagant Grace*

Luke 15: 22-24

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## Introduction

- The appeal of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
- Expectations of the prodigal son as he starts for home
- The gracious heart of his father: Forgives freely his son
- Absolute limits of Pharisees and Scribes: Forgive, but nothing more!

## *Prodigal Father: Extravagant Grace*

### **A. Extravagant Grace Expressed!**

1. *"Put sandals on his feet"*—the gift of **SON-SHIP**—Luke 15:22
2. *"Bring the best robe and put it on him"*—the gift of **HONOR**
  - a. Description of the "best" robe in that culture.
  - b. Put on before the son had a chance to bath—shield him from the disapproving gaze of his home town.
3. *"Put a ring on his finger"*—the gift of **AUTHORITY**
  - a. Signet ring gave the legal right of *'usufruct'*
  - b. *"Usufruct"*—*"use of the fruit"*—the legal right to use someone else's property or assets freely and reap the benefits from them as if their own.
  - c. Father still owned it all—and therefore could make use of it

### **B. Extravagant Grace Questioned!**

1. Fairness?? Doesn't seem fair to the elder son!
2. Sanity??? The father can't be in his right mind!

### **C. Extravagant Grace Explored:**

1. God gives us the gift of **FORGIVENESS!**
2. God gives us the gift of **SONSHIP**—adopted into his family and elevated to the position of adult son. Galatians 4:4; 3:26; 4:7; Rom. 8:17. We are made an *"heir of God and joint heir with Christ"*
3. God gives us the gift of **HONOR**
  - a. **BEFORE:** clothed in the rags of our own sin and self-righteousness. Eph. 2:1-3; 4:15-16; Gal. 5:19-21; Isa. 64:6
  - b. **AFTER:** Clothed in the righteousness of Christ
4. God gives us the gift of **AUTHORITY**
  - a. Our *"signet ring"*—Spirit of God
  - b. By the Spirit we live, pray, and minister
  - c. The Spirit gives us authority to act as God's representatives

### **D. Extravagant Grace Celebrated: The PARTY!**

1. The *"fatted calf"* celebrating not only the return of the son, but the extravagant grace of the father.
2. The heavenly party celebrating God's extravagant grace!