

Luke 15: Restoration

Read Luke 15:21-24

Once the son began to repent and humble himself, the father had heard enough. He didn't even let the son finish his prepared speech. *"But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'"* (Luke 15:22, NASB)

"Quickly" - the father wasted not a moment in lavishing his love on his son. No punishment. No scolding. No probationary period. Just love and full acceptance.

"The best robe" indicated status. He was not a slave, but a son. The father showed the world his favor toward his son by decking him out with the best clothing. Remember that Jacob showed his love for Joseph by giving him the coat of many colors (Genesis 37:3). Remember what Pharaoh did as soon as he chose Joseph to be Egypt's prime minister:
Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. (Genesis 41:42, NASB)

The ring was not just ornamental jewelry. It was a symbol and tool of authority. It allowed Joseph to act with Pharaoh's authority, and it allowed the son to act with his father's authority.

Sandals were a sign of freedom. They were a sign that he was not a slave, but a freeman.

So the moment the son returned to the father and acknowledged and repented of his sin, the father immediately

- expressed his deep love and favor for the son in a way that all could see
- restored his full status as a son
- restored his full authority as a son
- showed him and the whole world that his son was a freeman, not a slave.

What a beautiful picture of what our Father does for each and every sinner who repents and returns home!

"Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:23-24, NASB)

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