

# God's Voice

## PART FOURTEEN | The Fathers redemptive voice

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ARISE, SHINE  
YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

# Prophetic

What is prophecy?

**“MESSAGE FROM GOD”**

- ✓ **Foretelling** [knowing or predicting the future] [*NORMALLY*] and
- ✓ **Forth-telling** [causing the future through declaration – proclaiming God’s truth in a situation and calling it forth] with authority | *As good as His voice through you...*

**prophéteia:** prophecy | GREEK | *‘clarified beforehand’*

*God speaks through Fathers*

**Revelation 19:10** ...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

**1 Corinthians 12:7** “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...”

**1 Corinthians 14:3** But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

**Romans 10:17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

# The Power of a Father's Presence

- **Better Child Outcomes:** Children with engaged fathers are more likely to succeed in school, develop strong self-esteem, and form healthy emotional bonds.
- **Stronger Families:** Fathers reduce stress on mothers, improve co-parenting, and contribute to better birth outcomes and healthier family dynamics.
- **Reduced Risk:** Involved dads lower the chances of poverty, behavioral problems, substance abuse, and early criminal behavior.
- **Positive Future:** Young men with active fathers are more likely to graduate college, stay employed, and avoid jail or gang involvement.

 *“A father’s presence shapes the future.”*

You are  
my beloved child

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in whom I'm

well pleased

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# The Cost of Father Absence

- **Emotional Strain:** Fatherless children report higher rates of depression, insecurity, and identity struggles - especially in adolescence.
- **Academic & Economic Decline:** Lower school performance and greater risk of poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment.
- **Higher Risk Behaviors:** Youth without fathers are more likely to drop out, carry weapons, use drugs, and engage in early risky behavior.
- **Cycle Repeats:** The absence of a father often leads to the next generation facing the same struggles.

🗣️ *“The absence of a father doesn’t leave a void - it creates a storm.”*

## The Parable of the Lost Son / Merciful Father

**Luk 15:11-24** Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

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

“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!

I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 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.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“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. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

# What is prodigal living?

- When the son asks for his inheritance, he is saying to the father I wish you were dead so that I can get my portion of your wealth.
- The son took all he had and left for a distant **gentile** country and lived a reckless, wasteful life. Excessive indulgence and reckless spending.
- Ending up with pigs, which were considered unclean animals, symbolized the son's complete separation from his Jewish heritage and God.
- His longing for the pigs' food is a powerful metaphor for the soul's yearning for sustenance when it is fed on the empty "pods" of a life separated from God.

The world's offerings, which once seemed so appealing, are revealed to be unsatisfying and ultimately lead to spiritual starvation.

# A changed heart

- **Broken and Honest Heart**

- “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son...” (Luke 15:21)
- The son doesn’t blame others, justify his choices, or try to negotiate. He confesses honestly, from a place of humility and brokenness.

- **A Willingness to Lose Privilege**

- “Make me like one of your hired servants.” (Luke 15:19)
- He’s not asking to be reinstated, but simply to be near the father again. That shows he values the relationship more than the rights. The heart that can be trusted with authority again is one that doesn’t grasp for it.

- **A Turned Heart (Repentance in Action)**

- “He got up and went to his father.” (Luke 15:20)
- Repentance isn’t just sorrow — it’s movement toward the Father. The journey home is proof of change, not just regret.

# Our Fathers response

- He eagerly waits on your return
- Our father displays inexhaustible love for those who are “lost” (the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son) and of God’s unbridled joy when the lost are found
- His love is undignified... the master runs to the prodigal
- His affection transcends your filthy rags and he kisses... his love is deeply personal.

The song How he loves us said it well: And heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss

# The prophetic voice of redemption

- **The Best Robe - Restored Identity**

He calls forth the son's true identity, cancelling the identity of shame the son had accepted for himself. "The best robe" signified honor, favor, and status.

By clothing him, the father was prophetically declaring: **"You are not a servant neither are you a rebellious son; but you are my son. Your true identity is restored. I do not see the rags of your past, your rejection of my goodness, but as a son(your rightful place) in my house."**

Spiritually, this mirrors how God clothes us in the robe of Christ's righteousness (Isaiah 61:10)

# The prophetic voice of redemption

- **The Ring - Restored Authority**

The signet ring is a symbol of sonship and familial authority. It was used to seal documents and carry out the business of the family.

The father was prophetically declaring: **“Your authority as my son is restored. You once again have access to my name, my resources, and my power. Your past mistakes have not disqualified you from your future with me.”**

He was causing a **future of authority and belonging** to happen in that very moment.

# The prophetic voice of redemption

- **The Shoes - New Direction**

In that time, slaves went barefoot; sons wore sandals.

The son was prepared to walk the path of a slave, but the father prophetically declared a new path for him: **“You are no longer a slave to sin, to shame or your past. You are a son, and you will walk in freedom and purpose. Your journey of aimless wandering is over; your new walk as a restored son begins now.”**

This calls forth a new direction and a future free from the bondage of his past.

## Our response to the Robe

- **Isaiah 61:10** states: "I will greatly **rejoice** in the LORD; my soul shall **exult** in my God, for He has **clothed me** with garments of salvation and **wrapped me** with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."
- **Rejoicing and Exuberance in the Lord:** The believer experiences a deep joy and exuberance in their relationship with God.
- **Clothed in Salvation:** God has given the believer garments of salvation, signifying protection and a new identity in Christ.
- **Robed in Righteousness:** God has adorned the believer with a robe of righteousness, symbolizing the believer's new spiritual standing before God.
- **Bridegroom and Bride Imagery:** The verse uses the imagery of a bridegroom and bride preparing for a wedding to illustrate the beautiful and joyful nature of the relationship between God and the believer.

## Our response to the Ring

- The son had publicly dishonored the father and wasted a significant portion of family wealth. By human standards, trust must be earned but here it is freely restored.
- Many would say/think: "Forgive him, but don't empower him again!"
- Gods Grace Doesn't Just Forgive - It Restores
- Kingdom of God: **Restoration is not based on merit but relationship.**
- God is showing us that **true repentance met with true grace** results in full restoration, not probation
- Joseph & Pharaoh – **Gen 41:41–42** “Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.’ Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger”
- Joseph goes from prisoner to ruler in a moment.

True repentance  
met with true grace results in full  
restoration  
not probation



## Our response to the shoes

- The Father restores the son not just to be free, but to walk free in faith
- **Freedom from Slavery**  
**Gal 4:7:** “So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”
- **New Path New Ways**  
The son is no longer walking the road of shame and regret. Sandals speak to Godly direction and purpose.  
2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, and not by sight/
- **Gospel of Peace**  
Eph 6:15: “...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”  
The sandals not only mark freedom – the shoes prepare him to walk in peace, share peace, and live differently.

Let's Pray



ARISE, SHINE  
YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

## HYMN 101

Joy in heaven for a repenting sinner. Luke 15:7, 10.

Who can describe the joys that rise  
Through all the courts of Paradise,  
To see a prodigal return,  
To see an heir of glory born?

With joy the Father doth approve  
The fruit of his eternal love;  
The Son with joy looks down and sees  
The purchase of his agonies.

The Spirit takes delight to view  
The holy soul he formed anew;  
And saints and angels join to sing,  
The growing empire of their King.

