



Wake Up

Each year before the beginning of Great Lent we commemorate the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. On this Sunday the Holy Gospel reading is the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). In this reading we hear of a young man who asks his father for a share of the family inheritance. When his father freely gives this money to him, the young man goes to a far away land and lives a prodigal life. In time the man's sinful ways cause him to lose everything to the point that he is starving and willing to eat the food of the pigs.

We then hear in the Gospel reading that the man "came to himself." In these words we understand that he came to his senses, he woke up, he realized what he was doing. He looked closely at his life and recognized the sinful person he had become. The young man repented for his sinful life and chose to return to his father's house.

We find in the parable that when the son approached the house, his father did not simply wait for him there, but instead that he ran to his son and welcomed him with open arms. He did not care that his son had lost all of his money or that he lived a terrible and sinful life. His love for his son was so great that he did not care about these things, but celebrated his son's safe return.

Now that we have reached the season of Holy Lent we, like the Prodigal Son, must come to ourselves. We must come to our senses, wake up, and realize what we are doing. Now is the time that we should look closely at our own lives and recognize who we have become. Like the Prodigal Son we too must repent for our sins and make the choice to return to our Heavenly Father.

If we ask for God's forgiveness, then we too will be received with open arms by our Father. If we truly repent for our sins He will forgive us and one day welcome us into the joy and celebration of His Heavenly Kingdom.

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