

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

Jesus is amazing. He pays special attention to those who have messed up their lives. He seemed to attract a rather strange crowd, people of ill repute, misfits and sinners. But the religious elite did not like that much, they felt it wrong to associate with sinners, so they complained. In response, Jesus shared three fascinating stories: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (Luke 15). In each of these accounts God searches for the lost, finds them, and throws a party to celebrate their recovery. The third story is the most vivid. The younger son demands his inheritance from his father who is still alive, a despicable thing to do. Having received the money, he takes off to fulfill his dream of freedom from restrictions. Soon, however, his dream turns into a nightmare. He squanders the money and finds himself in need, with no friends, no money, and no food to eat. He literally hits rock bottom. “After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need” (Luke 15:14, NIV). He ended up feeding pigs to survive.

Then he remembers home but he thinks, *Since I can't return as a son, I could ask for a job!* (Luke 15:18, 19) But his father's heart has been longing for his return all along. “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” (verse 20, NIV). Oh, a father's love! He has no opportunity to ask for a job! His father gives him three things: the best robe, the ring, and the sandals—all symbolic tokens of his unconditional acceptance as a son. Daddy's son is back home and he's loved. Without missing a beat, the father initiates the celebration: “Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate” (verse 23, NIV). In the Scriptures, the upcoming death of the Savior in our place was symbolically depicted by the death of animal. It all pointed to Jesus who would die to pay the debt of our sin. The fattened calf was killed so that the celebration of the son's homecoming could begin; Jesus sacrificed His life so that we could celebrate our adoption into God's family.

Talbot, Elizabeth *Indestructible Love*, pp. 11-13.