



Restoration of Loss or Waste

Luke 15:22–23 (NKJV) *“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry...”*

Words of Ministry

What would your response be to someone who constantly took from you, then in ungrateful fashion wasted away everything you worked so hard to provide them with?

What would you say if your son, who you gave a large inheritance to, came crawling home one day after wasting away all the money you gave him on evil and selfish living?

In the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11–24), the father did not say one word about loss or waste, though his son had thoughtlessly wasted his father's entire inheritance on sinful living. But the father's reaction is remarkable! The father only saw his son's homecoming as an opportunity to show him how much he loved him and to restore to him what he had lost. There is no word of rebuke. There is no "lecture", no condemnation or judgment! The father's heart was only set on restoration.

Has it ever dawned on us that God is only in the business of restoration and reconciliation since the time of the cross? God's judgment period is over. At the cross God ended His controversy with sinners and is now opening His arms to embrace people in sonship. The law was satisfied by the atonement of Christ. God is no longer "Law-seated", but "Mercy-seated" towards us (Heb 4:16)!

Like the father in the parable, it is your heavenly Father's desire to embrace you and show you how much you are loved. It is His desire to restore what has been wasted, and it is His good pleasure to replenish what you have lost.

Perhaps you have lived in such a way that you have lost and wasted the blessings God has given to you. Maybe you have lost some blessing recently, or you are frustrated that something has gone to waste due to a bad decision you made. Beloved, God does not see finality in the loss or waste the way you do. When you come to Him with it, He sees it as an opportunity to restore to you what has been lost or wasted. God knows nothing except to give Himself away. We are the vessels and He is the supply!

Even if, like the prodigal son, you feel far away from your heavenly Father, or you feel that you have disappointed Him, don't despair. The truth is that the moment you come to Him, He begins the process of resurrection! God begins to turn things lost and wasted into things returned and "re-blessed"! Like the father in the parable, your Heavenly Father immediately restores to you a robe of **honor**, a ring of **authority** declaring your position of authority, and sandals for your feet (which servants do not wear) to reinstate you as **an heir** in His house.

Beloved, God will reassure you that you have never lost your position of sonship, even when you have failed. And God will celebrate your return to Him with a celebration of provision because you are His beloved child whom He cherishes.

Beloved, in your Father's house, you not only come under His complete favour, but you also enjoy His inexhaustibly rich provisions and unconditional love! Let God have your losses and wasted things. He will restore more than you could ever imagine just by your returning to Him! God is the original "recycler": He recycles what we wasted and lost to bountiful provision and blessing!