

## A Sinner's Prayer

<sup>17</sup> “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! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: *Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.* <sup>19</sup> *I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.*’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.”— Luke 15:17-20.

The young man had lived a sinful life. He had enjoyed the pleasures of the world, and all that money could buy. Soon his money ran out, and so did his ‘friends.’ He was now in a state of misery and lack, and no one gave him anything. Men and women had failed the young man. Sometimes we put our trust in people and they disappoint us. However, Psalm 9: 9-10 reminds us:

*The LORD also will be a refuge<sup>[c]</sup> for the oppressed,  
A refuge in times of trouble.  
And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;  
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

The Lord allowed the young man to come to his senses and he was convicted of his sins. He saw how his life had turned to abject poverty. Yet he reminisce that in his father’s house there was abundance and overflow. He made up his mind to confess his sins, and now in true repentance he prayerfully turns to God:

*‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’*

In his prayer the young son felt that his sin was so grave that he was no longer worthy to be called his father’s son. Instead, he was satisfied to be seen as a hired servant. He can only think how good his father was to him, and how he had brought shame upon him and his family by his riotous and wild lifestyle.

This happens to a lot of us, where our sins are so shocking that we feel ashamed of our past lifestyles, so much so that we don’t consider ourselves worthy before our own families, friends and God. But there is a God in heaven that loves us unconditionally, and longs for us to turn from our sinful ways, and back to Him. Even if our families and friends may have forsaken us, the Lord will never forsake those who seek Him as stated above in Psalm 9:10. Just like the prodigal son, each of us must have a day of reckoning with God, whereby after our eyes are opened to our sinful ways, we feel a strong conviction to turn away from that present lifestyle. The next step is to truly repent of our sins as we turn to our Father in prayer:

*Heavenly Father,*

*“I have sinned against heaven and against You. Forgive me of my sins. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die for my sins. I accept Him as my Lord and Saviour. Holy Spirit come into my life, and take full*

*control of my thoughts, words and deeds. I thank You, O God, for another chance to be called Your son (daughter). In Jesus' mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."*

**Memory Verse:**

*"For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You." – Psalm 9:10.*