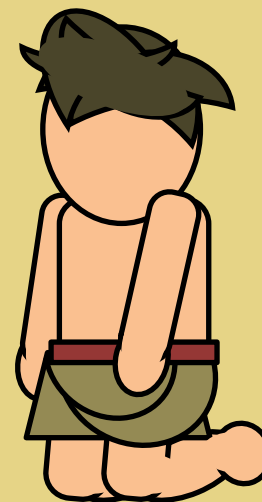


# Message of Hope

“The Other Prodigal” Elder Jeffrey R Holland May 2002 Ensign

## Lessons learned from the Prodigal Son



# Lessons learned from the Prodigal Son

- ❖ Coming to Christ is true freedom from bondage
- ❖ It's never over 'til it's over. Do we really know the final outcome in the lives of our spiritual sibling? It's in God's hands. Joseph Smith said, "A soul is never too old to repent." TPJS p 191
- ❖ Be careful not to condemn. Remorse is not repentance but it is a good beginning.
- ❖ The lowest point (rock bottom) is someone's life can be a switch point for turning back to God. There also is "Foxhole" religion" Repentance borne of desperation is not always lasting. Time will tell for the younger son.

- ❖ Repentance is not a work we perform on our own. We must allow God to “find” us. The lost sheep and coin didn’t regret---they were found.
- ❖ There are limits to the mercy of God. We don’t sin so that mercy can abound. We could lose something we can never reclaim.
- ❖ It is always better to “prepare and prevent” than to “repair and repent.” You ALWAYS lose something during a period of rebellion.
- ❖ Ask yourself: Would I have attended the banquet of the returning prodigal? Would I feel I am condoning the actions of the guilty: Remember: All of us fall short of perfection. God cheers on every runner, calling out that the race is against sin, not against each other.
- ❖ In order to have faith in Jesus Christ and God the Father, we must understand their character and attributes. This parable should be “the parable of the Loving Father’ The Father of the prodigal sons is our father. He is the “hero”.

“When we are lost, we can **‘come to ourselves’** but we may not always be able to **‘find ourselves,’** and, worlds without end, we cannot **‘save ourselves.’** Only the Father and His only Begotten Son can do that. Salvation is in Them only. So we pray that They will help us, that They will **‘come out’** to meet and embrace us and bring us into the feast They have prepared.”

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