

Study Guide: *Bring Them to Jesus, Part 3: Filled with Compassion*

1. “It was a highly unusual request, which meant that the father would probably have had to sell one third of his land, reserving the double portion for the firstborn son (cf. Deut. 21:17). The younger son was essentially telling his father that he wished he were already \_\_\_\_\_, particularly unthinkable in a patriarchal setting. Such rebelliousness by one’s son could perhaps be treated as a capital offense (Deut. 21:18-21)” (*Andrews Bible Commentary*, pg. 1379).
2. God Himself gives us \_\_\_\_\_ to make wrong choices, and so as parents there comes a time for that as well.
3. “The wealth which he has selfishly claimed from his father he squanders upon harlots. The treasure of his young manhood is wasted. The precious \_\_\_\_ of life, the strength of intellect, the bright visions of youth, the spiritual aspirations—all are consumed in the fires of lust” (E.G. White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pg. 199).
4. “The deceptive power that Satan had exercised over him was broken. He saw that his suffering was the result of his own folly.... Miserable as he was, the prodigal found hope in the conviction of his father’s \_\_\_\_\_. It was that love which was drawing him toward home. So it is the assurance of God’s love that constrains the sinner to return to God. “The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.” Rom. 2:4. A golden chain, the mercy and compassion of divine love, is passed around every imperiled soul. The Lord declares, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I \_\_\_\_\_ thee.” Jer. 31:3” (pg. 202).
5. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20).
6. “The \_\_\_\_\_ will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son’s misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle [robe], and wraps it around the son’s wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance....” (*COL*, p. 203-4).

*If you have a prodigal child, here are 4 key points to remember:*

- 1) Make sure they know you deeply \_\_\_\_ them & that Jesus does too.
- 2) Wait & watch for them to come home while praying for them \_\_\_\_

“We can pray for our children, that not only will God \_\_\_\_\_ their sins, but that He will give them strength to \_\_\_\_\_ temptation—strength to walk away when temptation comes” (Tamyra Horst, *Praying Like Crazy for Your Kids*, pg. 81).

- 3) Ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ you with compassion for them, making you ready to run to them while they’re still a long way off and warmly embrace them.
- 4) Assure them of God’s amazing \_\_\_\_\_—His overwhelming compassion and complete forgiveness.

“The [prodigal] son feels that the past is forgiven and \_\_\_\_\_, blotted out forever. And so God says to the sinner, “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins,” Isa. 44:22. “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Jer. 31:34.... Isa. 55:7....Jer. 50:20” (*COL*, p.204-5).

Answers: dead, freedom, years, love, drawn, compassion,  
father, love, daily, forgive, avoid, fill, grace, forgotten