**The Love Of A Father**

**Reading - Proverbs 1:1-7**

***(Proverbs 1:33) But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil."***

**The Prodigal Son of Luke 15:11-18**

***“Children obey your parents for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1)***

***(Colossians 3:20) Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.;*** **(cf. Luke 5:19).**

***(Ephesians 4:28) Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.***

***(Proverbs 10:4-5) He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. {5} He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.***

***(Proverbs 17:17) A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.***

The Prodigal finally did the right thing, but how could this mistake been avoided?

This son may not have erred if he had not . ***(Proverbs 23:17) Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day… (Proverbs 24:1) Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them;***

He might not have erred had he been willing to from his father. ***(Proverbs 6:20-21) My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. {21} Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck…***

The Love Of A Father will take a repentant child back regardless of what he did***. Psalm 103:13: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."***

Father’s role is to TRY to instruct his children.

***Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."***

***(Proverbs 13:1) A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.***

***(Proverbs 15:5) A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent.***

Father’s role is to Discipline His children – ***Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

The Prodigal may not have erred had he understood the purpose of chastening and discipline that every loving father provides.

***(Hebrews 12:5-11) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; {6} For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." {7} If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? {8} But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. {9} Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? {10} For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. {11} Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.***

**The Rich Young Ruler Matthew 19:16-26**

***(1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17) Now godliness with contentment is great gain. {7} For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. {8} And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. {9} But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. {10} For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. {17} Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.***

***(2 Peter 3:5-11) For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, {6} by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. {7} But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. {8} But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. {9} The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. {10} But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. {11} Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,***

How could this mistake been avoided? He needed to have learned early on the and that brings. ***(1 Timothy 6:17-19) Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. {18} Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, {19} storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.***

Our Loving Father Understands that His Children Can Be Foolishly Ignorant. ***2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***