

## Hope for the Mothers of Prodigals

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced and kissed him.” Luke 15:20

Recently, I was driving down the highway when I spotted a huge something on the shoulder of my side of the road. It was roughly the size of an end table in my living room, obviously an unmistakable obstacle. As my car approached it, the image began to clear, and I could see that it was a large, beautiful bald eagle eating roadkill. After the 30 seconds it took to register what I had just seen, it was so appalling and disturbing that I turned my head and said, “Don’t you know who you are? Roadkill is so beneath you.” It was such a waste of breathtaking beauty, power, and majesty. Eagles are meant to soar and snatch fish while in flight, not pick at bloated remains.

I imagine this is how you feel as a parent of a wayward child, so disappointed as you watch your child make choices beneath his or her position as a child of the Most High God. BRAVE moms call out the best and the brave in their children, but sometimes it doesn’t happen right away, and sometimes our very best doesn’t lead where we hoped, dreamed, or imagined.

This disappointment, this hurt, has cost you – tears, heartache, dignity, and maybe even relationships. Sometimes it’s easy to get caught up in those emotions and disappointment. But I have a few things I hope you’ll think and pray over instead.

First, I’m so sorry. Your child walking away from the Lord, and maybe even you, was not what you planned, and it hurts. Children walking away from the Lord is the stuff of broken dreams, and no matter their age, rebellious and wayward kids grieve us. You can be confident, however, that you don’t grieve alone. Our heavenly Father has called Himself our comforter, counselor, and healer. Run to Him and draw your strength and hope from the source Who will never fail.

Second, I want to point you back to reflection and prayer. If your child has ever given proof of his or her salvation, then let’s pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will have His way in your child. If not, then let’s circle back around and beg the Lord to open your child’s eyes and turn them from darkness to light. Let’s choose our battles wisely, and spend the time with the Lord necessary to quiet our hearts and gain His perspective.

Last, scan the horizon expectantly. God hears your prayers and feels the pain. We can rest assured that He is hunting down your children, relentlessly. We know He’s listening to our prayers and working in our children’s lives. Follow the example of the father in the parable of the prodigal son and watch expectantly for your child’s return.

Friend, God is still working miracles. Plan the welcome home party and wait expectantly.