

## WHAT IF....

**Read Luke 15:11-32**

3rd Sunday of Lent, March 4, 2018

The prodigal son in Jesus' parable, had a father and we can surmise he had a living mother also. When the son left home was it on good terms or bad terms?

As you fast, pray, listen and respond today try to imagine what the parents of the prodigal son felt like as their child walked out the front door. Did they think they would ever see him again? Did his mom wonder if they would ever simply gather around a dinner table again as a family? Did the mom and dad blame each other for causing the son to leave? Or maybe, was there finally peace in the house after weeks of fussing and fighting?

How long did it take for the parents to start worrying about their child? Had they started to worry before he left or only after he really left and it was obvious he was not coming home soon? Was their lost child a passing thought during the day or did their worry consume them all day long? How did they feel as they thought about their son squandering everything they had ever given him? He had so much potential, so many resources and yet he seemed to be ignoring all common sense and wasting it all.

We have parents and grandparents living all around us today who have watched their children "leave home" because of their addiction to opioids. The very children they would give their lives for have walked out of the door and appear to be squandering their lives away.

Ask God to show you how we can be in ministry to these hurting souls. How would God have us get to know them and walk with them through their valley of shadows. Listen for God's answer, expect God to answer.

It is not enough for us to open the church doors and wait for the parents of the prodigal sons and daughters to come in. We must leave our sanctuaries and find them!

**Prayer:** God show me how we can be in ministry to hurting souls. Teach us how to get to know them and walk with them through their valley of shadows. Lord, open my ears as I listen expectantly for Your answer. Amen.

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