





A seemingly Happy beginning

- **Son living in luxurious house surrounded by his family and friends who love God**
- **Always being spoiled and cared for but he doesn't realise the value of his family and church friends around him**



Temptations begin to lurk

- **Goes to church feeling annoyed** bc he doesn't understand anything that's going on and is doing it out of 'routine'



Starting to go astray

- Skips out on Sunday school/church services :
 - going on his phone in church
 - talking with his friends during the liturgy
 - being at birthday parties instead of sunday school
 - going out and playing with friends during church services



Venturing into the 'new world'

- **Decides to leave his church, family and friends to 'explore the world'**
- **taking all his father's savings money for his pleasures**



Indulging in the world's pleasures

- **He enjoys worldly pleasures surrounding himself with new friends**
- **going to clubs & getting drunk**
- **Spending all his money on his friends and 'having fun'**



Acceptance of the facade

- **Realises that all his new 'friends' are fake, take advantage of him and use him for his money and wanted to make him stray away from church**
- **Now he is all alone in the darkness**
- **We must be careful not to fall into the trap of business of our earthly life at the expense of our spiritual life as our life on earth is temporal, but a fleeting moment which passes in a blink of an eye, but our eternal life resides in heaven forever**



Shaking with Regret

- Is filled with guilt, regret and shame for leaving his fathers house
- Is left to be homeless, not even daring to think (hesitant for the sake of the ai) of returning to his father's house



The Courage to Return

- **The son gathers confidence to travel back to his father's house**
- **He wishes he can receive his father's love even if he is a cleaner or a servant**

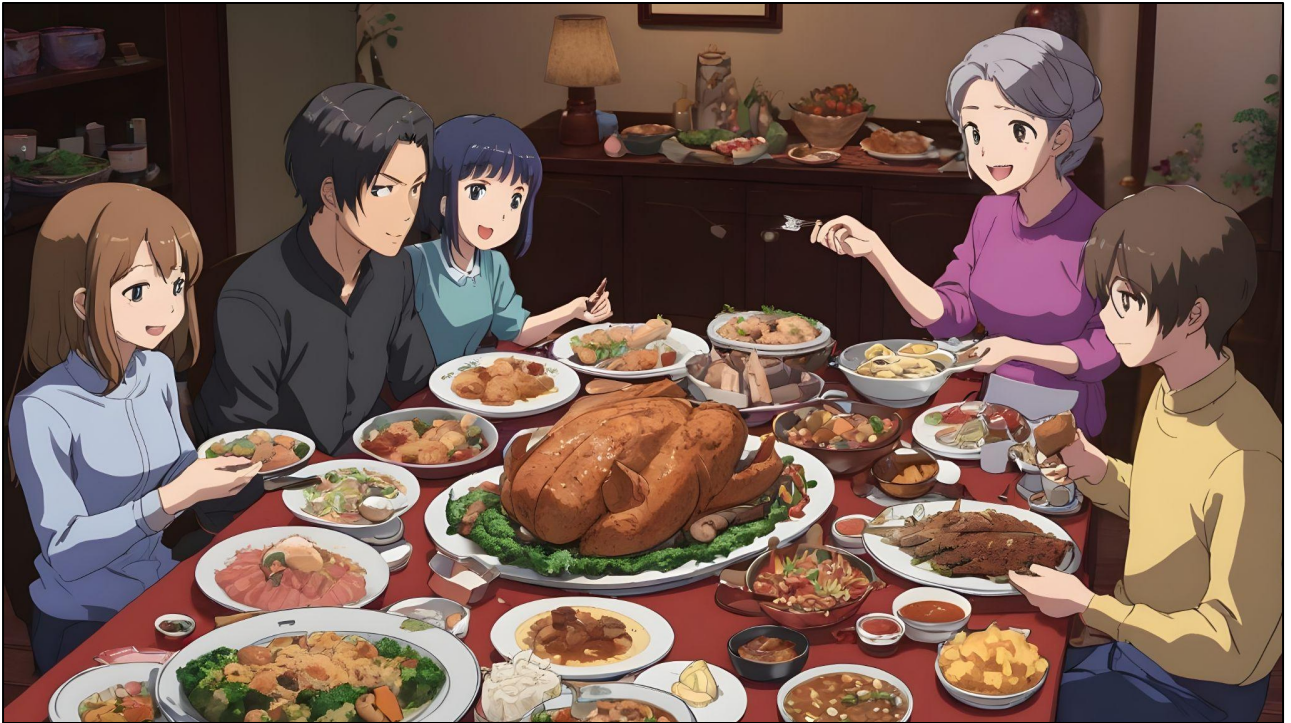


- To his surprise the son's father had been patiently waiting for him outside the door of his house everyday, awaiting his return (father sitting with sorrow & sighing)



Tears of Joy

- **The son is brought to tears once he sees his father**
- **Runs to his father and kisses his hand asking him for forgiveness**
- **His father embraces him with tears of joy at his sons return to his bosom**
- **The son begs his father to accept him even as a mere cleaner just as long as he can return to his bosom and care**
- **Unexpectedly the son is welcomed into his father's home and is comforted by his father when he says to him 'welcome back my son'**



The reunion

- The father calls all his son's old friends and family to celebrate the return of his son
- He throws a massive feast and cleans him up from his dirtiness to help him get back on his path as it says in the book of Revelations Chapter 7, verse 14, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."



Return to the bosom of The Father

- His friends ensure they have a gathering at church to welcome back their friend with all the church priests and Sunday school servants/youth leaders
- They all help him to return and attend his first mass/liturgy where he takes his first step in regaining his joy through repentance. As he was only initially stripped of his joy because of his sin but the Holy Spirit burns inside of us and urges us to re-trigger and regain our joy through our true repentance and sentencing of death to our sins as we call on the name of the Lord to redeem us from our dirtiness as our teacher St Paul says in Romans 10:13 “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- The son feels overwhelmed by the love of his family, friends and most importantly by God and his loving children and servants
- Filling our life w empty sources/replacements such as surrounding yourself with large group of friends who may not necessarily guide you in the path of Christ usually leads us astray as if our faith is not strongly established in Christ, it can be shaken.
- Instead, it is crucial to fulfill ur life w prayer & daily communion w God and carrying out His blessed words and commandments which we can read and contemplate on, helps us to involve Him in every aspects of our lives and have Him guide all our steps



Acceptance of God's Love & Learning the True Meaning of The Pursuit of Joy

- The son returns to his church rejoicing, attends liturgies
- He begins to serve the younger children and nurture them with God's knowledge and joy
- He is filled with the love and joy of Christ and tries to project that in his daily interactions with everyone he sees
- He learns that God "Himself is our peace" as is stated in Ephesians 2:14, and the only source of our joy in our lives in every aspect of our lives
- He made it his mission to be Christlike as a source of joy to others, guiding those who go astray as he once did and making sure to keep the children of the church close to its roots and to make sure that they find peace in the love and joy of God
- Through this, he learnt the joy of Godly fellowship, selfless service and giving from himself for the sake of pouring from his cup of joy to others to help spiritually nourish them as he was nourished by the Spring of Living Water Himself, Our Lord Jesus Christ
- And from this, we learn the joy we receive from Our Mother, the Church, in whom which we devote ourselves to abiding in Christ, purifying our earthly lives to reach our eternal place in His heavenly jerusalem so we can gain a heavenly life in Christ through His Resurrection.
- All of these goals can be acquired becoming one body of Christ by:
 - a. Partaking of the communion of His Holy Body and Precious Blood as

- a. well as the other sacraments, most of which we implement in our lives
- b. Baptism & Myron which we receive after birth
- c. Living a life of daily repentance & confession
- d. When two individuals choose to be united as one in Christ thru marriage
- e. Standing by & serving those who are sick thru the Unction of the sick
- f. And for those who serve Christ by also taking care of His flock, thru Priesthood
- g.



- **Always focus on the eternal joy that is awaiting u in the paradise of joy where no moth or rust destroys where there is no sadness, tribulations, sin, sickness, death or temptation**
- **Someone who has the true joy of Christ will not complain but endure and have peace & joy thru tribulations whereas someone who doesn't will always complain, be depressed & find ways to blame anyone & everyone including God**
- **In this story we see God's bosom overarching the world, His children and his church and learn that as His children we can only "Rejoice in the Lord." Psalm 97:12 as we learn to accept His unconditional and eternal love which He has bestowed upon us.**