

“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.” Luke 15:13 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 15:11-32

I get it. Sometimes people believe they want MORE. The ol' homestead is stifling, restrictive, lackluster. Not everyone experiences it, but those who do have a real struggle with the restlessness and curiosity of what's "out there." The responsibility, boundaries, rules and just the same view out the window begin to feel claustrophobic. But this young man in Jesus story didn't want to just "see the world" or "find himself," he wanted things he could not pay for. He wanted to grab his future and pull it into his inexperienced, naive, unbalanced, untested present. He wasn't frustrated by his family's dullness, he was disillusioned by thought he was missing out on. I was given a gift of chaos as a child. I was given the opportunity for the party life and wild living to come to my house every weekend and certainly ever holiday. I was able to experience life outside the bounds of boring responsibility and normalcy. I lived with an alcoholic father and a co-dependent mother and watched the "prodigal son" story in real time in REVERSE. So, sure I was like any other teenager and wondered what "x" was like. "x" being drugs, drinking, partying, sex and staying out all night with friends. I wondered what that kind of "wild living" felt like. But what kept me in check was my own parents who tried to experience their inheritance of "freedom" before they understood what their idea of "life" would cost them or their families personally. It was if the norm on our ranch, our homestead was "everyone" leaves for the bright lights, big city and no one stays to do family. So when the distant land and wild living itch came to me, I said, "I'll pass." The price was too great and didn't seem worth it. After you seen your Dad vomit and pass out all over the place, you think, nah, I don't want to eat and sleep with pigs.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

As crazy as it sounds, I have often been grateful for prodigal parents! Parents who did have a sense of respect, right and wrong and strong values of being "good" people, but made that decision to bring the distant land home every weekend. It made it very clear, very simple to see where that lifestyle would lead me. I didn't know how to do life differently though, until you offered me an alternative. As a teen I just thought about what I didn't want, not what I did want. I wouldn't have even know how to get or live a normal, stable life. Thank you for everything you've done in me. I am still a long ways from being normal, or good, but I see the homestead completely different than the prodigal or elder brother.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root