

THE FATHER'S LOVE

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Cast: **Narrator**
 Father
 Younger Son
 Elder Son
 Friends of the Younger Son (double as those who reject him later)
 Workers
 Servant

Props: **Chair**
 Money bag

Narrator: Jesus tells us about the love a father has for his two sons.

(Father is - Younger Son is lounging about – Father ruffles his hair affectionately)

The older son thinks he has to earn his father's love. He is always working, trying hard to please and do the right thing.

(Elder son brings a chair, indicates for Father to sit on it then goes off to work with workers, waves, and starts to dig).

The younger son is restless. He wants to enjoy life and is keen to try new ideas but he doesn't feel satisfied.

(younger son is drawing, then screws up paper and throws it aside)

He is always wanting something else and he knows how to get round his father.

(he pulls Father up out of his chair and whispers in his ear)

When he asks for his share of the estate, his father looks at him and sees his heart. He knows he is not happy. His father is willing to share all he has with him but he sees that his son thinks he can find happiness somewhere else.

(Father nods sadly, Servant brings him a money bag)

He gives him the money and, afraid of what might happen to him, he embraces him with tears in his eyes.

(Younger son stands stiffly as his Father embraces his, Elder Son looks at him from a distance his arms folded)

Off he goes in search of what is missing in his life, using money to win friends.

(Younger Son passes money round among his friends, drinks and enjoys himself)

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But you can't buy happiness and when it runs out, he finds himself alone.

(Friends go off and younger son sits on ground begging with cap)

Nobody cares.

(A person throws a coin in the cap put in coin, another kicks at him and others pass by)

He tries to get a job but no-one wants him, except for the lowest of jobs, feeding the pigs.

(Younger Son crouches head in hand, holding his stomach)

He feels lost, abandoned and literally dying of hunger.

(lies stretched out on the ground)

It is in this deep despair that he remembers how much his father loves him.

(he looks up)

He feels his father's longing for him deep inside

(Father is looking out for his Son & praying)

and suddenly all he wants is to go home.

(Younger son face in hands, crying – then looks towards home and starts to move in that direction)

Back at home the older son is still working. Someone has to look after the place. When his father asks him to rest, he can't stop.

(Father goes to the Elder Son and tries to get him to stop working)

He is so busy helping that he doesn't realise his father has something to give him.

Every day the father looks out, hoping to see his young son coming home, until at last there he is and he runs to welcome him. He embraces him, kissing him tenderly, with tears in his eyes. He can't be one of his workers because he is his son and always will be!

(Father runs to meet his Son - he gives him a ring)

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In spite of the mess he has made of things, his father just forgives him and accepts him totally as he is. He is delighted to have him back again and wants everyone to celebrate!

(Father brings a chair for his Son, who sits on it)

When the older son hears about the party, he becomes angry

(Elder Son comes near with workers, folds his arms)

He doesn't understand this kind of love, where his father gives without expecting anything in return. In a way, he too feels lost.

(workers beckon to the Elder Son to come nearer, he shakes his head)

In his world his good behaviour and hard work should be rewarded, while his brother has done nothing to deserve it. Because he measures love in this way, he can only give to his father and brother if he gets something back.

(he turns his back)

The father shows him the same compassion he showed his brother. He embraces him with tears in his eyes. "You are always with me. All I have is yours"

(Father goes to the Elder son holdind his arms out and gently brings him forward)

His love is without limits and so he gently invites his son to recognise what stops him from sharing and enjoying it.

The party is ready. Everyone is invited.

(balloons, flowers, bread and grapes are produced)