



YMCA Wimbledon Chaplaincy

with Jonathan

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY CHAPLAINCY SHEET OR TO SPEAK TO THE TEAM

Hi everyone,

I've a parable from the Bible this week about a reckless son who takes his Dad's money or inheritance and spends it all, and I mean all! You can find it in Luke Chapter 15 vs 11-32. When

the son comes back to his Dad what do you think should have been done? What is fair and should there have been a punishment?

RECKLESS SON OR RECKLESS GOD?



In a famous parable explaining God's love for the world, Jesus told a story about two brothers, the younger of whom rejects his father, demands his inheritance early and then goes and blows the lot on wild parties. Finding himself reduced to feeding pigs he sets off home in the hope of re-entering the household as a servant, only to be welcomed back by his father as a child once more.

The story is known the world over as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. But it's a terrible title because in fact it's the father who is prodigal and both of his sons are lost. To be prodigal is to be wastefully or recklessly extravagant and that's how the father is with the love he has for his children. He loves his younger son so much that he doesn't force him to stay when he wants to leave and welcomes him back with the same love when he comes home.

It's this prodigal love of God that explains why the world is in such a mess but which gives us hope for the future – God allows us to reject him and make a mess of things, but he loves us so much that he's always waiting to welcome us back.

A Blessing for Friends and Families

Blessed are the mothers and fathers,
grandmothers and grandfathers, sisters and brothers,
Partners and friends who cannot go home.

Blessed are the families who become isolated from each other,
the ones who sacrifice their own comfort so that
we need not be alone in our suffering.

Amen

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YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.