

would go home, he decided, and tell his father that he had been so wicked and sinful, that he was no longer worthy to be treated as his son, and ask him if he would hire him as a servant in the house.

So he traveled the long way back to his own country, but before he reached the house, his father saw him coming, and, filled with love and pity at the sight of his son, poor, thin and ragged, ran to meet him, and threw his arms round his neck and kissed him. The son was ashamed, knowing how unworthy he was of such a loving welcome, and said, "Father, I have sinned so greatly, that I am not fit to be called your son."

But the father cried to his servants, "Put the best robe on him, and a ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet, and kill the fatted calf, that we may feast and be glad, for my son who I thought was dead, has returned safely."

Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his return, hearing what the merry-making meant, was so angry that he would not enter the house. And when his father came and begged him to come in, he complained that, although he had served his father faithfully for so many years, he had never been given a feast; yet, as soon as his wicked brother had returned, the best of everything had been given him.

But the father answered him gently, "My son, your brother is not getting anything from me that rightfully belongs to you—for everything that I possess is yours; we are only rejoicing, and it is right that we should, because he has returned home safely, when we thought he was lost or dead."

#### Questions on the Lesson

1. How many sons had a certain man?
2. What request did the younger son make?
3. Where did he go?
4. How did he use his money?
5. What happened next?
6. What work did he get to do?
7. What did he decide to do?
8. Who met him before he reached home?
9. What welcome did he get?
10. How did the son answer this greeting?
11. What did the father order to be done?
12. Who was angry because of the feast?
13. Why was he angry?
14. What did the father reply?
15. What is the Golden Text?

#### Lesson Hymn

Though I forget Him, and wander away,  
Still He doth love me wherever I stray;  
Back to His dear loving arms would I flee,  
When I remember that Jesus loves me. Amen.

—Hymn 548, Book of Praise

#### The Catechism

**PRIMARY CATECHISM—108.** What does our baptism teach us? Our baptism teaches us that we belong to Christ, and must be true to Him.

**SHORTER CATECHISM—25.** *How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?* A. Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

#### The Question on Missions

30. Is anything being done specially for women and girls? For years, Girls' Homes have been set up at some of the stations by the wife of the missionary, and a central Home has now been established at Princes-town under the care of Miss Archibald. Ten Bible women are employed to teach women in their homes.

#### SOMETHING TO DRAW

The ring which was given to the wandering son when he came back to his father's house,



was a sign of freedom. Slaves never wore such rings. This is a picture of what the Saviour does for us. He sets us free from sin, to serve Him with grateful, loving hearts.

**I Have Learned To-day  
TO TURN BACK FROM SIN**