2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21

**16**From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way.

**17**So if anyone is in Christ, thereis a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

**18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

**19**that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

**20**So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

**21**For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Psalm 32**

***Leader***: 1Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

***People*: 2Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

***Leader***: 3When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

***People*: 4For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

***Leader***: 5I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity…

***People*: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

***Leader***: 6Therefore let those who are godly offer prayer to you…

***People*: at a time of distress, the rush of great waters shall not reach them.**

***Leader***: 7You are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble; you encompass me with deliverance.

***People*: 8I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

***Leader***: 9Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

***People*: 10Many are the pangs of the wicked; but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

**Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11b – 32**

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

**2**And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

**3**So he told them this parable:

**11**Then Jesus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25592a)] said, “There was a man who had two sons.

**12**The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them.

**13**A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living.

**14**When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need.

**15**So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

**16**He would gladly have filled his stomach[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25597b)] with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything.

**17**But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

**18**I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

**19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’

**20**So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

**21**Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25602c)]

**22**But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

**23**And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate,

**24**for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

**25**“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

**26**He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

**27**He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’

**28**Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

**29**But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

**30**But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

**31**Then the father[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2015&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25612d)] said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

**32**But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”