

# Your Wandering Child

**Sermon Delivered 5-28-05**

**Taught By Rabbi/Brother Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky**

*Delivered Live at B'nai Yahshua Synagogue, North Miami Beach, Florida.*

**Read Corintyah Alef 10:13**-All parents can expect to be tested by their children! It is common to all humans including believing families, as s.a.tan has targeted believing families, as his m.o. remains the same from Gan Aden when he/she destroyed the first family, by coming between Adam and Chavah and between Kayin and Avel! He has not changed, and the reason you have these issues with your child is because the enemy goes about as a roaring lion seeing if he can do to your family what he did to the first Torah observant family in Gan Aden!

As parents we tend to take too much credit if things go right and too and not give ourselves enough credit for being good parents when things go wrong. This may come to you as a shock, but after a certain age, parents do not have anywhere near as much say over their children, as do other elements in life. That in itself is a sobering reality for many parents, who still believe they can rescue their 40 yr. old children!

**Luka 15:11** And He said, *A certain man had two sons:*

**A child will always be a child and belong to the parents despite their actions!**

*12 And the younger of them said to his abba, Abba, give me the portion of goods that belongs to me. And he divided to them his living.*

Often a child may desire your money or your possessions more than you. This is not uncommon. Do not worry. You must live your own walk before YHWH without coveting and be a living example for your wayward child. Do not divide your living; let them learn how to earn things!

*13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all things together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.*

Many children will hurt their parents with fleshly, worldly and carnal behavior opposite what they had been taught. **As seen here the way to handle this is to pray and just let them go.** Note that the father did nothing to stop the son, though he could have. Notice also that when a child rebels against the Truth of YHWH, they usually will go far away not just a little departure from the truth. "Gathering their things," speaks of all things that do not profit them!

*14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.*

A parent must rest in the fact that if they remain faithful to YHWH, He will see to it that at some point famine and lack will set in, wherever the child may be wandering, to get the child back to home base. **Corintyah Alef 7:14**

14 For the unbelieving husband is set-apart by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is set-apart by the husband: **otherwise your children would be unclean; but now are they kadosh.**

**These are spiritual unseen laws at work in the heavens. If the house has even one believing spouse, the likelihood for the other spouse to be saved, as well as the children, are increased greatly. Set-apart means they are under a spiritual covering, with a great advantage and head start in coming to eternal life. This should encourage parents to keep the covering by staying the course. Thus your child's return depends in large part on your own steadfastness to YHWH and your priestly covering over their life. If you flinch and become resentful, angry, or lose faith in the Word, you may not see your child's return for a long time! Your child's wandering is as much if a test of faith for you, as it is for your rebellious child. Are you passing, or failing that test?**

**Honestly? Mishle/Proverbs 22:11 tells us that in your child's absence the Melech King Moshiach Yahshua will be you chaver/friend, who always sticks closer than a brother or a child!**

15 *And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.*

In their departure from loyalty to YHWH don't be alarmed when they join non-Yisraelite movements, whether they be secular or carnal and wind up in different fields than what you trained them in! They have chosen to dwell with swine and it may take a while for them to come to their senses! **Rebellion grows over time and so healing will also take time! But remember THE PROMISE OF YHWH, that if you trained them right, they will eventually return in teshuvah and to you! Mishle/Proverbs 22:6.**

16 *And he was longing to fill his belly with the pods that the swine did eat: and no man gave to him.*

Yahshua teaches us that if you remain steadfast as the covering for your rebellious child, that He will make sure that no man will give, or provide for your child like you and Yahshua can, in order to bring them home as He desires them to be!

17 *And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired avadim of my abba's have lechem enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

YHWH's promise to you! Not if, but WHEN your child comes to his or her senses, they will begin to think fondly of home and not see it as a place of torment, or limitation!

18 *I will arise and go to my abba, and will say to him, Abba, I have sinned against the shamayim, and before you,*

The kind of true teshuvah that a parent is to look for is a teshuvah that first takes YHWH into account and then the parent. If a child flowers you with "I'm sorrys," without FIRST making teshuvah before the heavens, their horizontal relationship with you will not change. True teshuvah begins at the throne of grace and forgiveness!

19 *And am no more worthy to be called your son: make me as one of your hired avadim.*

Your child will have such a desire to return home, that they will be willing to do chores and obligations unlike before and be willing to contribute to the family rather, than merely always taking! **But first, you must allow them to take that journey into a far country! Change often cannot happen, if they move in rebellion right around the corner. Proximity is not a good remedy to a wandering child.**

20 *And he arose, and came to his abba.*

In a strained relationship the burden is always on the child to rise up and take the first step to show their parents the change of heart they have acquired. **All lasting change begins with YHWH!**

*But when he was yet a great way off, his abba saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

The parent in this kind of a strained relationship must always respond in the affirmative never shunning the repentant return, lest the child grow more callous than before. **Ephsivah 6:4.** Refusing their heartfelt teshuvah is provoking them to even more wrath!

21 *And the son said to him, Abba, I have sinned against the shamayim, and in Your sight, and am no more worthy to be called Your son.*

As opposed to before, the repentant child sees his or her parents as friends and not as their problem! They begin to see that having "righteous blood washed parents," is a blessing not a hindrance to a party lifestyle! **In order to begin to see that will require time in a far country!**

22 *But the abba said to his avadim, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:*

Since the child has made teshuvah worldly possessions can be restored as the child has seen that worldly possessions without Moshiach are a trap! Not a bracha! This step must be gradual and with measure, lest the child return to a lifestyle bent on materialism, which is idolatry! **The best here speaks of quality restoration, not quantity, which is materialism!**

23 *And bring here the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and celebrate:*

Always keep your home kosher! In your child's absence and or presence, waiting for them to come to their senses. **Fatted calf represents open a door policy to your rebellious children!**

24 *For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be celebrating.*

Celebration is YHWH's will for the restored family when the child returns in teshuvah! YHWH will show your child the difference between celebrating what YHWH has done versus celebrating the things offered by the world for self-gratification.

25 *Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew near to the bayit, he heard music and dancing.*

26 *And he called one of the avadim, and asked what these things meant.*

27 *And he said to him, Your brother has come; and your abba has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.*

28 *And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore his abba came out, and pleaded with him.*

Do not always expect all your children to be as welcoming as YHWH and yourself. Some may resent your child's restoration. Don't be surprised at how selfish your other children who stayed home can also be. But regardless of their reaction, you and your prodigal child must celebrate YHWH's goodness and sound mind imparted to the rebellious one.

29 *And he answering said to his abba, See, these many years do I serve you, neither transgressed I at any time your commandment: and yet you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my chaverim:*

YHWH is more impressed with teshuvah than with legalistic rule keeping! Return, restoration, and renewal, is what YHWH desires for all families!

30 *But as soon as this your son has come, who has devoured your living with harlots, you have killed for him the fatted calf.*

Notice the "your son" remark. Sometimes there are children who remain close to you by phone, or by mail, but really have wrong in their hearts to you and towards others. This teaches us that a child can be rebellious and stubborn, even though they don't go to some of the same extremes as the prodigal. **A little rebellion is enough to ruin any family.**

31 *And he said to him, Son, you are always with Me, and all that I have is yours.*

32 *It was right that we should celebrate, and be in simcha: for this your brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.*

Notice that the Father's heart is for restoration of those who have wandered and those who have stayed. **A parent's overriding concern is an end to rebellion and a loving and cohesive family unit. We can rest assured, that the Father in heaven desires this for us all during our earthly trials and anxieties.** Our hope is in the Heavenly Father's unchanging heart, desire and plans for all faithful families. Our hope and trust must remain in YHWH.