

Recognition

It was a very hot afternoon, and the wedding guests were trying to find a cool spot as the preparations were being made for the ceremony. We had spent half an hour with the photographer, and had just been released on our own for a while. I was to be the officiant for my niece, and had the upcoming message on my mind. As I looked across a large grassy field to where I had parked my car, though, I saw a figure approaching from perhaps a hundred yards away.

I knew almost immediately who it was by the way he walked. It was my son, and I left the shade to go meet him. I didn't think that he was going to attend the event, and I was very glad to see him.

When I thought later of it, I realized that the joy I felt in seeing my son at a distance was surely somewhat similar to that which the father felt when he saw his prodigal son¹ returning home – recognizing his walk, I am sure.

Now, I want to make sure you know that my son is a good son – definitely not a prodigal. And I had just seen him a few days before. But I was still very pleased to see him. And I could see how that God is glad to see us coming to Him, too, whether we are a prodigal (one who had been in rebellion) or just a regular sinner.

1. Luke 15:20b