

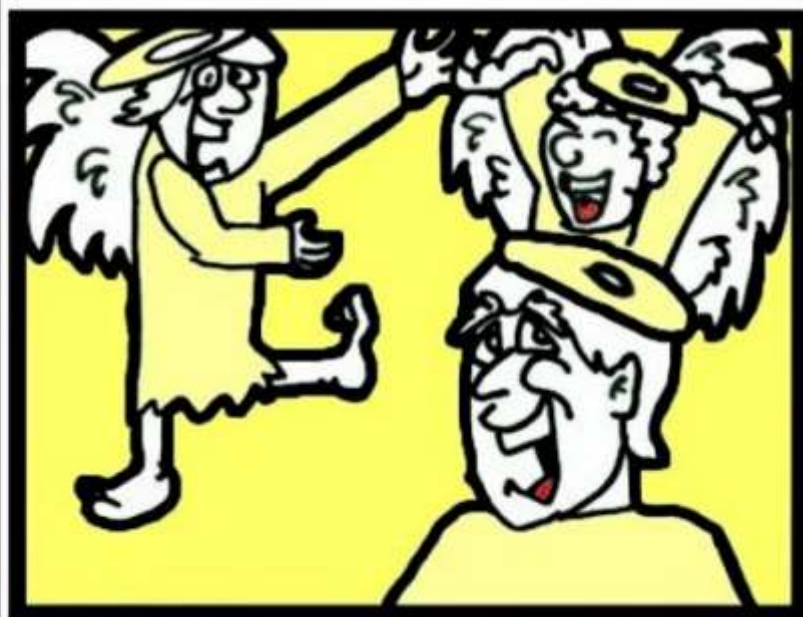
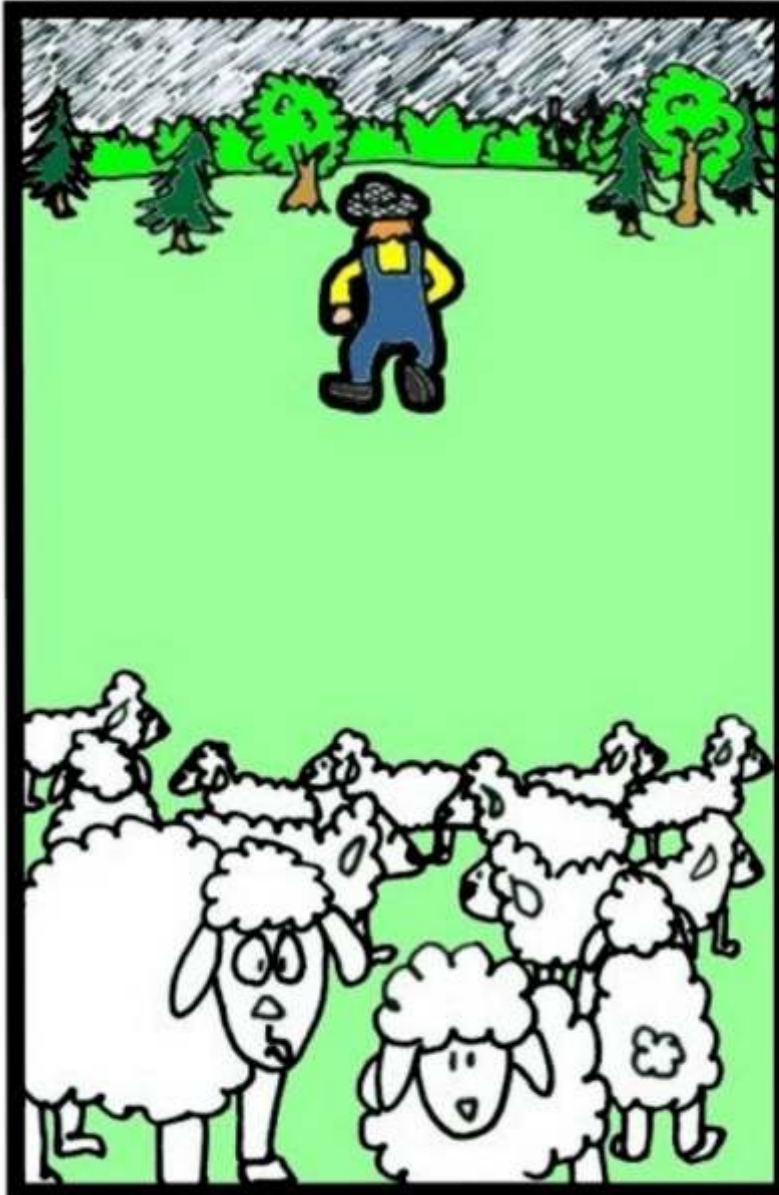
The Prodigal Son

(Based on Luke 15:1-32)

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Now all the tax collectors and the people who did bad things gathered around Jesus to listen to him. "Jesus lets bad people come close to him and he even eats with them!" gasped the phony Pharisees.



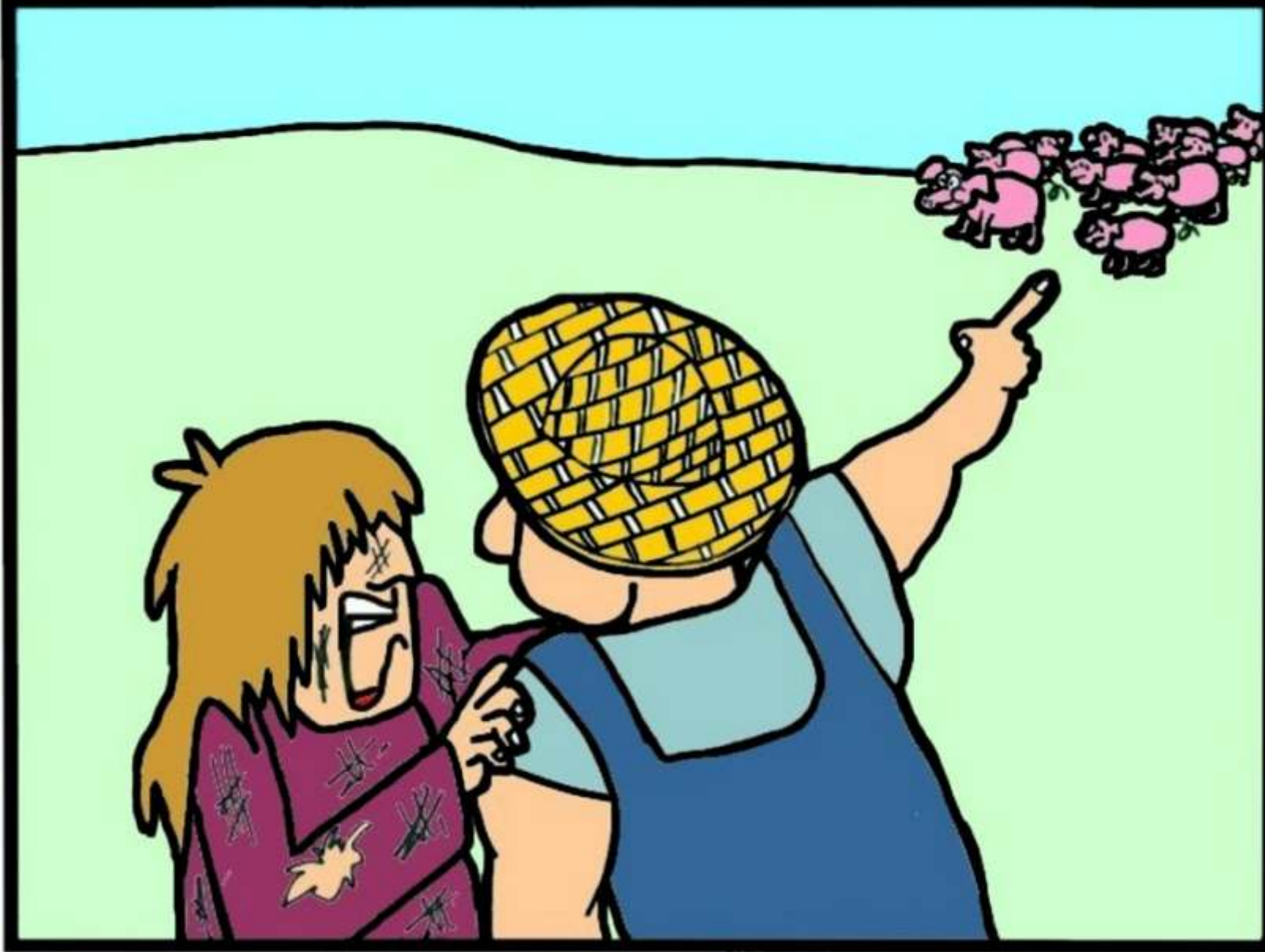
Then Jesus said, "If a farmer has 100 sheep and he loses 1 of them, he leaves the 99 and goes looking for the lost sheep. When he finds it, he celebrates. In heaven the angels celebrate when a person who does bad things, is sorry and changes.



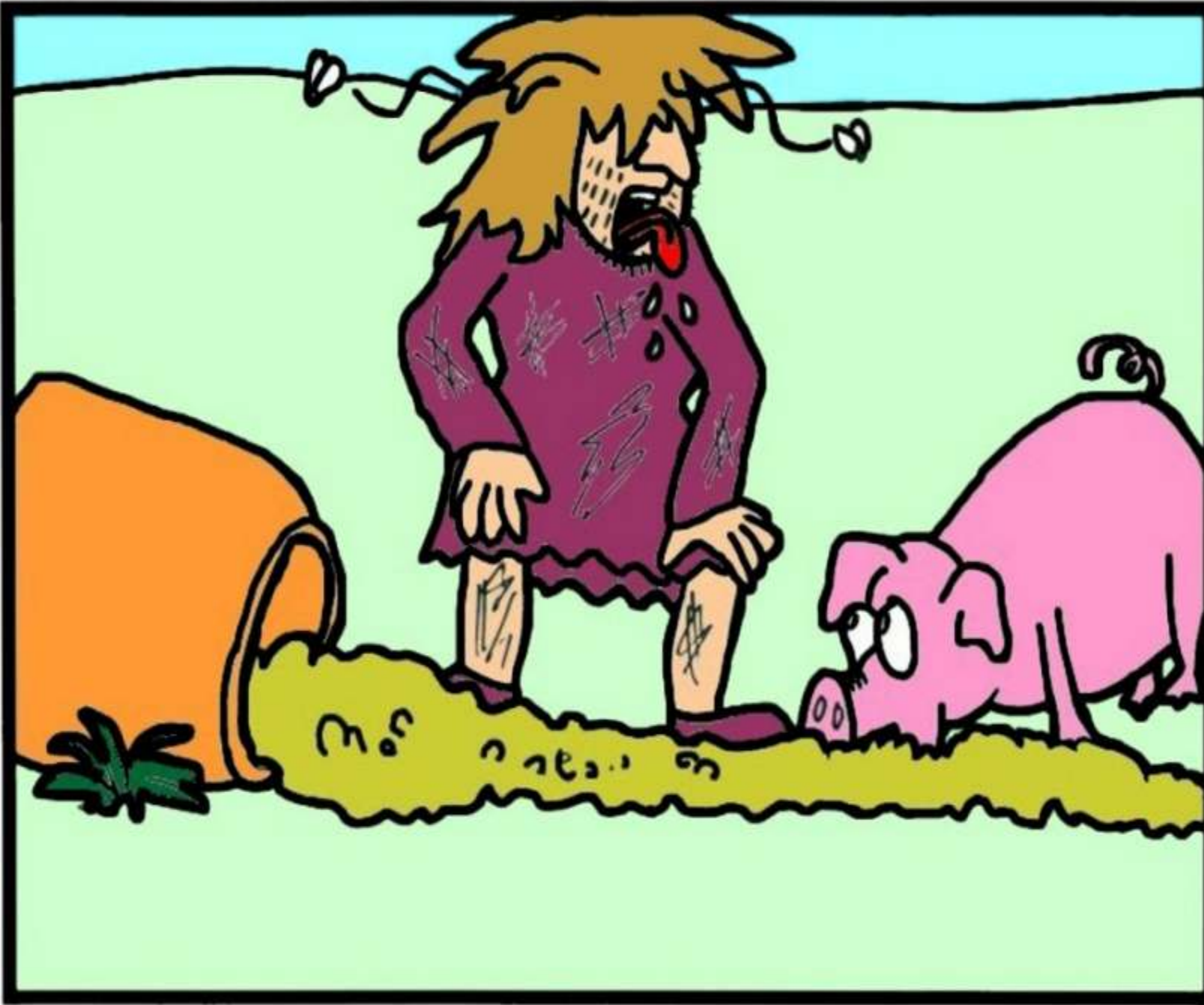
A certain man had two sons and the younger son said, 'Dad, the money that I would normally get after you die, I want you to give it to me now!' So the father divided up all his stuff and gave the younger son his share.



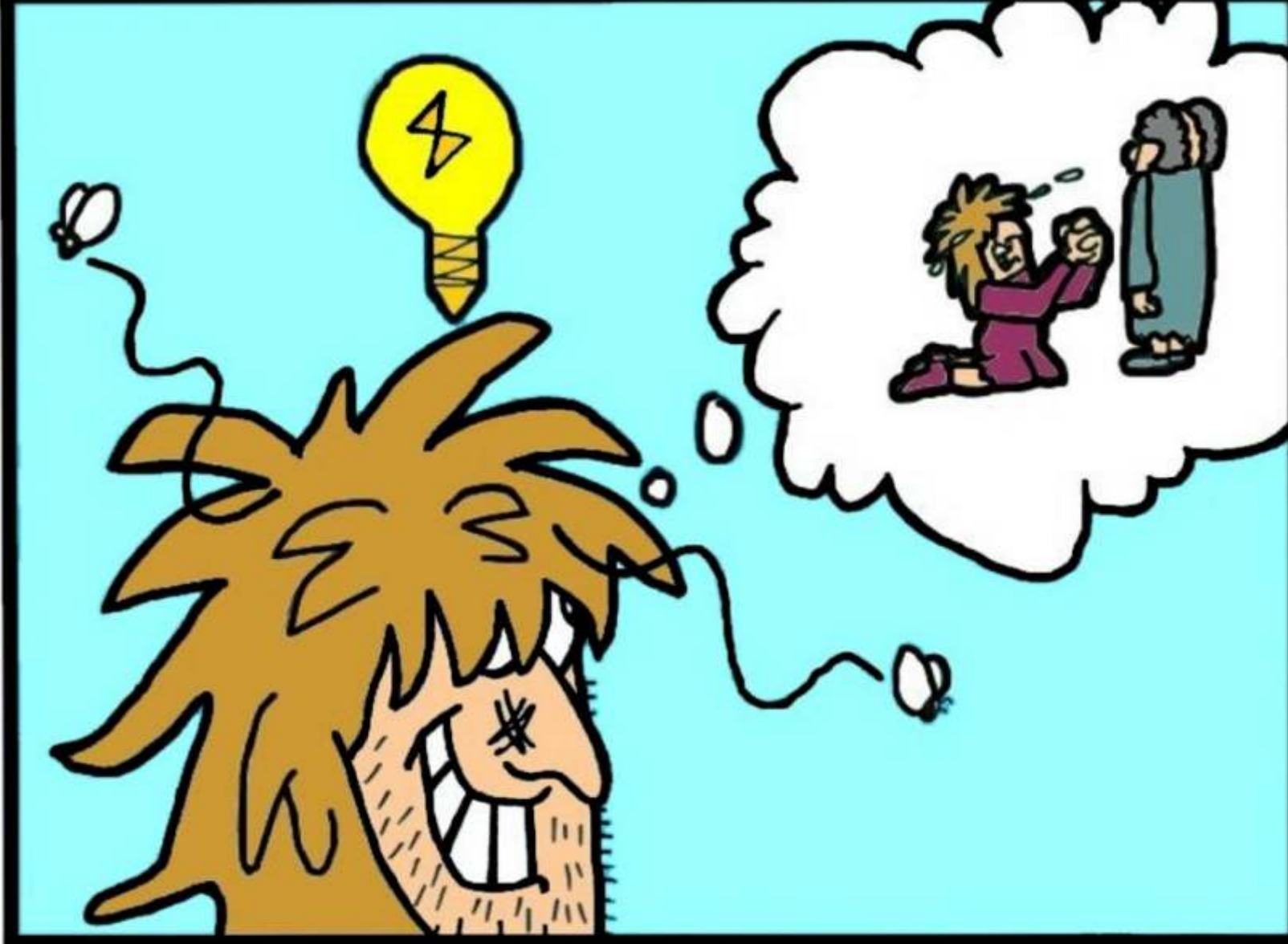
Not many days later the younger son packed up his stuff and traveled to a far away country. There he wasted everything he had. He just partied all the time.



After he had spent all the money, a terrible food shortage came to that country. The younger son was desperate. Please give me a job, he begged a man of that country. The man sent him into the field to feed pigs.



As the younger son fed the pigs, he thought, 'I wish I could eat this pig food. I'm so hungry!' But nobody gave him anything.



When the younger son came to his senses he said, 'My father's servants have more than enough food and I am starving! I will go to my father and say, Father, I have done bad things. I don't deserve to be called your son. Please hire me as a servant.'



While the son was still far away, the father saw and ran to him. He hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father I did bad things. I don't deserve to be called your son.' The Father arranged a party and gave his son new clothes and shoes. He put a ring on his finger.



Now the older son was coming from the field and when he heard the music and dancing he wondered what was happening. The servants told him that his younger brother was home. The older brother refused to go to the party.



The older son said, 'Father all these years I have served and obeyed you. You never made a party for me but you made a party for him!' The Father answered, 'All I have is yours. We should be happy because your brother was dead but now he is alive again.'"



Lord, help me to tell people about you so they can run to Father God. Help me never to wander away like the lost sheep.