



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Week of April 9, 2023*

### **Sermon Text Luke 15:12-24**

**11** And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. **17** “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise 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 as one of your hired servants.”’ **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

*If you were not able to listen to this week’s sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermons/page/1>.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How is the prodigal son’s treatment of his father similar to mankind’s treatment of God?
2. The prodigal sought freedom from his father’s authority. Instead, why do you think he found misery worse than slavery? What lesson do we learn from the prodigal son about seeking freedom from God?
3. When the prodigal finally came to his senses, what kind of reception do you think he expected from his dad? Do you think the prodigal knew his father well?
4. The prodigal’s father sees his son returning from a long way off, runs to greet him, “falls on his neck” as he hugs him and then throws him a party. What does this imagery of the father’s response tell you about God’s love and concern for the lost? Why do you think God responds this way?

5. Does the father's extravagant lavish response to the return of his wayward son mean that God does not think our rebellion is really that bad? How do you know?