

A colorful illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a large ear of wheat is on the left, and a woven basket filled with grain is in the lower left. A large, brown, curved object, possibly a piece of wood or a large ear of wheat, is in the center. To the right, there are green leaves and a bunch of purple grapes. In the background, a small house with a red and white striped awning is visible. The sky is yellow with white, swirling clouds. The entire scene is framed by a yellow border.

The Lost Son

A parable
told by Jesus

Many years ago there was a man who had two sons. They lived happily together until one day the youngest son decided:



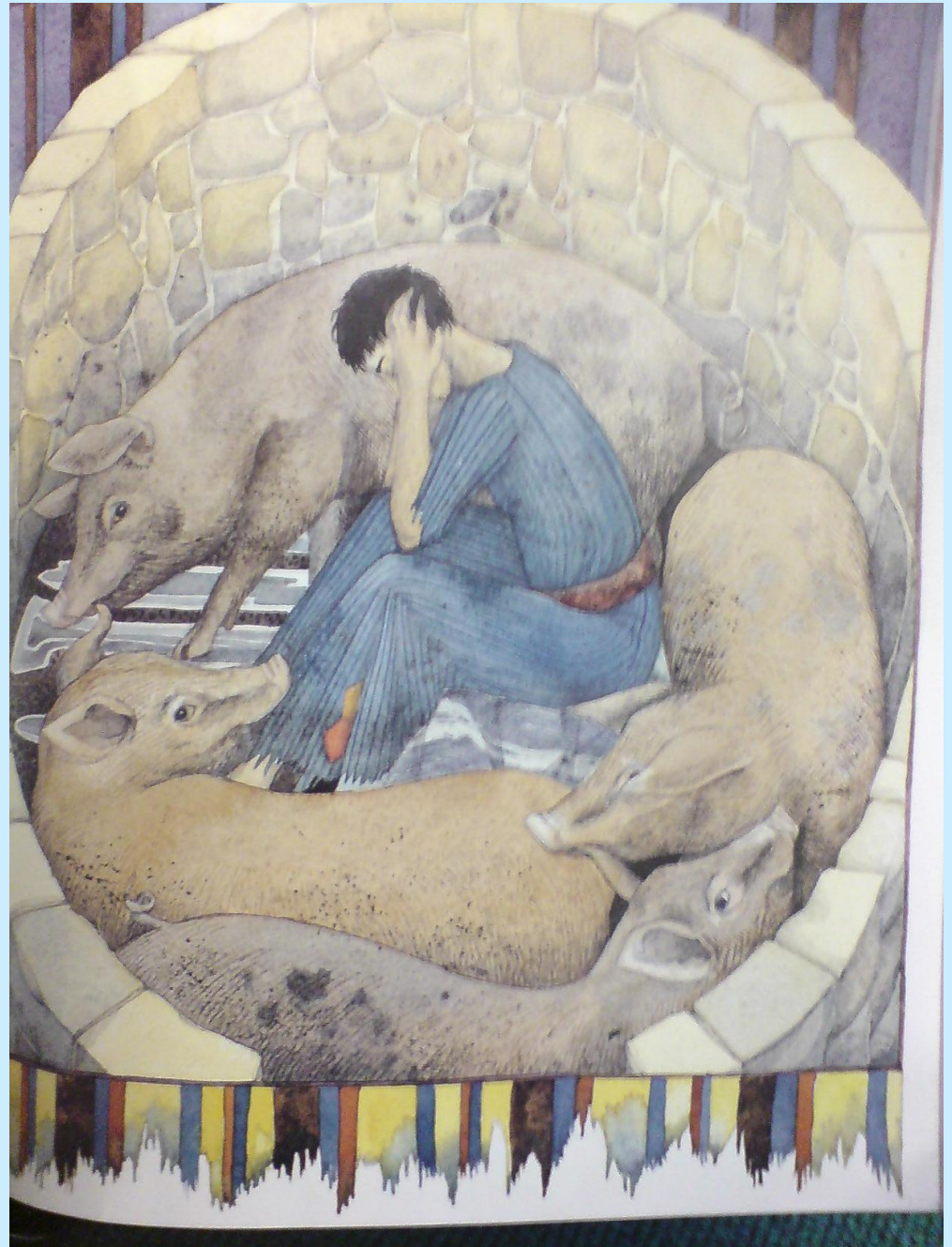
I want to move away.

The youngest son asked his father for his half of the family savings, so his father shared it out between the two boys.

The oldest son saved the money and stayed with his father. The youngest son moved far away and spent all his money on fine clothes, food and parties.



Soon the youngest son had no money left and had nowhere to live. He had to get a job feeding the pigs for a farmer. He was so hungry that even the pigs' food started to look delicious.



He felt very sad, as he knew he had done his father and God wrong. He thought to himself:



I do not deserve to be my father's son. I am not worthy of his love.

Suddenly, he had an idea:

I know! My father has many slaves and they are fed well. I shall go back to my father and ask to be paid to be his slave!

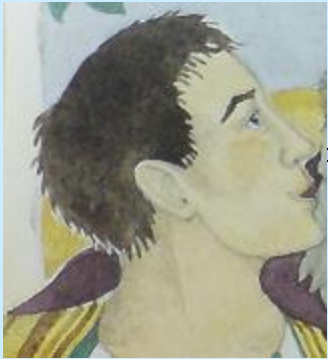
He travelled many miles back to his father. But when his father saw him, he said to his servants:



Get me my son's finest clothes!
He has come back to me!



The son said to his father :



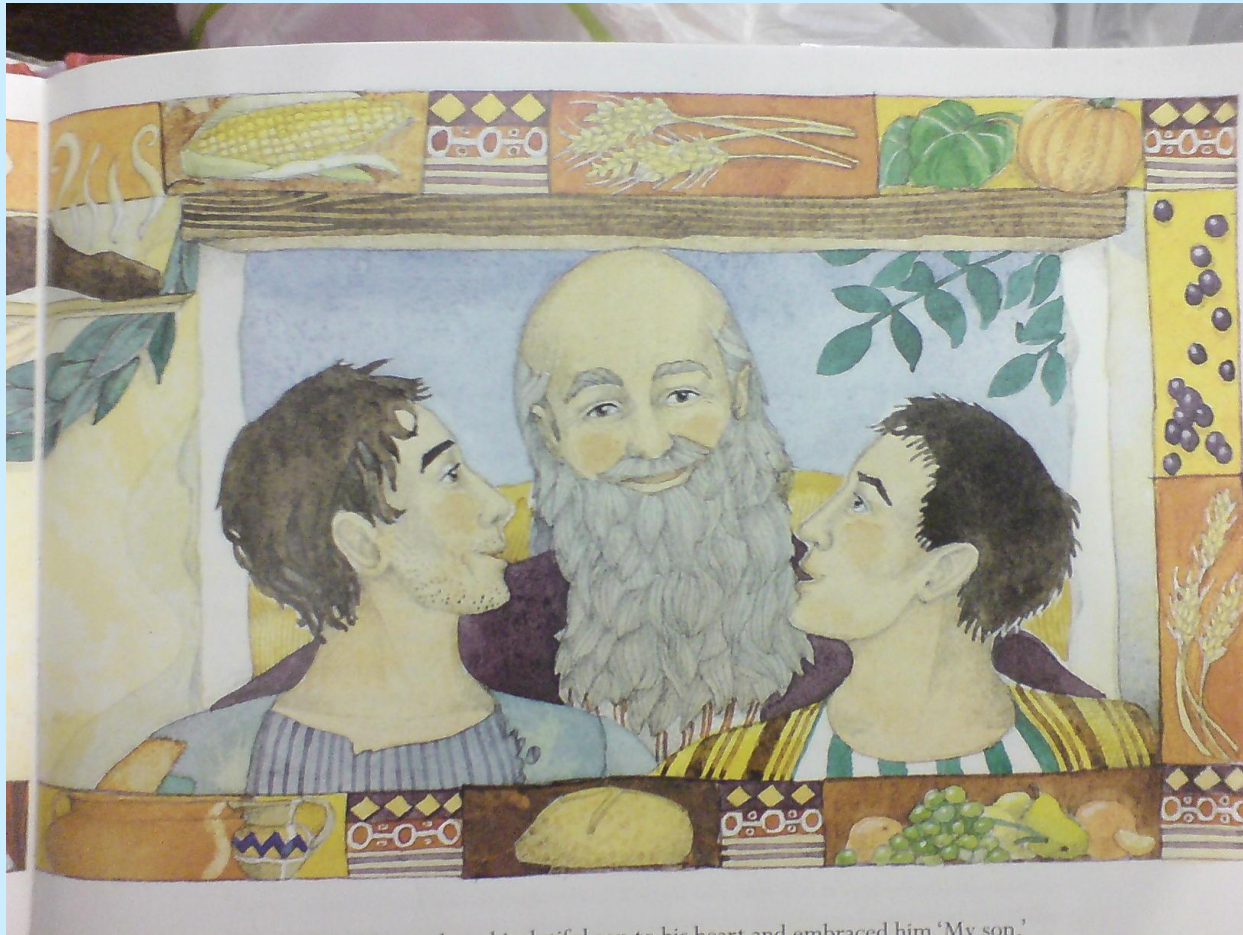
Why are you not angry with me?

The father said:



Of course I am not angry!
I am happy to have you home again!
When you went away it was like you
had died. But now you are back it is
like you are alive again.

And the son lived at home with his father and his brother and knew he had learned his lesson.



He drew his joyful son to his heart and embraced him 'My son,'