

## Return Unto Me

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Luke 15:11-24 tells the story of the prodigal son. It is a sad, but inspiring story of the fall and redemption of a person who made a mess of his life. Many people have done the same as the young son in the story, lured away from the father who loves them. Some find their way back to the wonderful relationship that they left, but some do not. Let us consider this prodigal son and his journey away from home, and back again.

He left home and his father and family, they didn't leave him. He had a good life that he evidently had taken for granted. All his life he had been a son in a good home with servants, a loving father, a brother, and all that he needed. Like so many folks who have a good life and have known no other, he took it for granted and wished for something more. More excitement, more pleasure, more of what he wanted, without the structure of the father's rules.

This self-centered young man took it upon himself to ask for his inheritance. We might wonder why the father gave it to him. Was it because the father could tell that

he didn't appreciate him and what he provided? The father might have said, "I won't make you stay with me if you don't want to." I believe that this is the same way that people some times do with God. They take for granted the salvation and love that he gives them and want something more. Leaving the relationship of God they wander into the world and go their own way.

The son in the story had fun for awhile, but the day came when he found himself in trouble. His friends turned out to be false, for when his money ran out they left him too. Sin is like that, it lures a person away from God and ruins the relationship with the Lord, then leaves him to face the consequences alone. Judas found that out the hard way when the priests laughed at him and said, "What is that to us, see thou to it." Meaning - Judas, you're on your own." We can see that this still holds true. So-called friends may encourage, or lead, us into something, but then we have to face the consequences alone.

This foolish young son in the story went through a lot of suffering before he woke up and saw his real condition. One thing he learned was humility and an appreciation for what he had lost. It wasn't taken from him - he willingly gave it up in the pursuit for something better. When he came to himself, took an honest look at where he was,

he longed to go home. He feared to go back and face his father. It always hurts to admit that we were wrong, just as it did this young man.

What a wonderful surprise to find out that he could go home again! Not to be accepted as a servant as he had hoped, but as a son who was welcomed home. While his older brother was not so glad to see him, his father was, and was thankful for his safe return. It is true that some "brethren" may not welcome a repentant sinner, the Father does.

The younger son desired to return home and be a part of the family again. He might have known that his brother would be angry at him. He might have expected the servants to laugh behind his back and talk about him, but he came anyway, for his faith was in the father and his love. Any repentant sinner need only look to the heavenly father and not worry about what man may think about him.

The lesson to be learned from this account is that God forgives and wants his children to come back to him. All of us make mistakes in our lives. Those who repent and ask the Lord to forgive them are forgiven. Repentance must be genuine to receive the mercy of God. He knows when someone is not sincere for he sees what is in the heart.

# Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

**RAVENNA Food Mart**

314 Main Street  
Ravenna, KY  
Phone 723-6333

**CASH IN A DASH Payday Loans**  
Buy Gold-Silver  
Phone 723-0799

(Irvine, next to Bunt Gross)

**High Street Full Gospel Church**

Irvine, Kentucky  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm  
Welcome!  
Pastor David Woosley  
(859) 369-5354

**St. Elizabeth Catholic Church**

322 5th St., Ravenna, KY  
Sunday Mass 9:00 am  
Wednesday Mass 6:00 pm  
Thursday Mass 6:00 pm  
Contact: Father Al Fritsch, S.J.  
(606) 723-4705

**Honchell's Men's & Boys' Clothing & Shoes**

Tuxedo Rental Available  
West Irvine Plaza  
Irvine, Kentucky  
Phone 723-7316

**Prayer Circle at Knowlton Church**

Call for Prayer  
Kenny - 606 723-7451  
606 614-8110  
Benny - 859 404-8224  
Betty - 859 432-0939  
Dallas - 859 582-9752  
Willie - 606 454-8794

Call 723-5012 to Advertise

**Dunaway United Methodist**  
11840 Irvine Road (Trapp)  
Winchester, Clark County, Ky  
Church Services

Morning Worship 10am • Sunday School 11am  
Pastor Randy Hardman Call 704-733-8751

**Advertise Here!**  
Call 723-5012  
The Estill County Tribune

**Owl Head's Grocery & Feed**

Phone 723-7473 South Irvine, Ky.  
Novelties - Open 7 Days A Week  
Donald & Katherine Dixon, Owners

**Gum Springs Church of God**

Highway 213 (Furnace Junction)  
Pastor Glenn Case • Call 723-4180  
Church Services  
Sunday School 10 am • Morning Worship 11:15 am  
Sunday Night 6 pm • Wednesday Night 6 pm

**Hardy Oil Company, Inc.**

74 River Drive  
Irvine, Kentucky  
Phone 723-3664

**Harg First Church of God**  
Hwy. 82, Irvine, KY

Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm  
4th Sunday Singing 6:00 pm  
Everyone Is Welcome!  
Roy Jackson, Pastor

**Lewis-Abner Home For Funerals**

224 Main  
Irvine, KY  
Pre-Need Services Available  
723-2151

**Inner Beauty Hair, Nails, Salon & Day Spa**

363 Richmond Road, Irvine  
Phone 723-0118  
Joanna Jernigan  
Owner & Master Stylist  
Stephanie Isaacs  
Master Stylist & Nail Tech  
Sherry Harrison  
Master Stylist  
"For All Your Salon & Spa Needs"

**Advertise Here!**

Call 723-5012  
The Estill County Tribune

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**


Now at 106 Tyler Lane  
Irvine, Kentucky 40336  
Pastor: Sherl Thomas  
Services  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm  
Established  
September 12, 1999

Call 723-5012 to Advertise

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

**MELCHIZEDEK -- MAN OF MYSTERY!**

IF EVER THERE WAS A MYSTERY, A PUZZLE IN THE BIBLE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE THE PRIEST-KING, MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF SALEM. IN THE ONE MEETING ABRAHAM HAD WITH MELCHIZEDEK, HE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED HIM AS SUPERIOR TO HIMSELF IN THE EYES OF GOD! MELCHIZEDEK BROUGHT TO ABRAHAM BREAD AND WINE, AND BLESSED HIM. THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES HE IS REFERRED TO AS THE HIGH PRIEST OF GOD, COMING NOT FROM A FATHER OR A MOTHER, HAVING NO END TO HIS LIFE AND NO BEGINNING. STUDENTS AND AUTHORITIES ON THE BIBLE HAVE SPECULATED ENDLESSLY ON THIS PRIEST-KING: SOME HAVE ARGUED THAT HE WAS A SURVIVOR OF THE FLOOD, THE PATRIARCH SHEM, OTHERS THAT HE WAS AN ANGEL OF GOD--ONE JEWISH TRADITION IS THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH; SOME SAY THAT SALEM, WHERE HE RULED, LATER BECAME JERUSALEM--BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN, WHOEVER MELCHIZEDEK WAS, HE CERTAINLY AROUSED THE CURIOSITY OF SCHOLARS DOWN THROUGH THE AGES!



SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAP-BOOK

**SAVE-A-LOT**  
1290 Richmond Road  
Irvine, Kentucky  
Phone 723-6372

**Warren F. Toler Funeral Home**

Family Owned and Operated  
99 Cedar Grove  
www.tolerfuneralhome.com  
Phone 723-2183  
Obituary Line Phone 723-4242

**Roadside Mission Church of God**  
Welcomes You!

A Bible Teaching Church  
Furnace Junction Ravenna, KY  
Sunday School & Morning Worship, 10 am  
Sunday Evening Evangelistic Service, 6 pm  
Wed. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, 6 pm  
Radio Ministry  
Sundays, 2:00 p.m. WSKV 104.9 FM