

March 18, 2017

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Today's gospel reading strikes a chord with many people because the younger son's story is their own. Many of us, at a point in our teens or early twenties, feel the urge to rebel. We feel the pull to leave the oppressiveness and drudgery of our lives. Our target may be our families, our religion, school, or something we cannot quite name. Deep down inside we have the need to stretch our wings, to break the bonds. Our rebellion may be physical, it may be spiritual or both.

Often we end up in dire straits. Sometimes we even hit rock bottom like the younger son. But these are the very events that open our eyes. Suddenly we see the world is not as we pictured it. We see our previous situation is not full of oppression and drudgery.

Like the younger son, we set out on a spiritual quest; we take some risks, we make some mistakes. Like him, we die and rise and now we are on the proper path to maturity and spiritual growth.

**Reflection questions:**

Lent is a time to spiritually spread our wings and take risks. What are you doing this Lent that will lead to spiritual growth?

Is anyone around you going through a rebellion? How do you let them know they are always welcome back, no matter what?

*Reflection by Deacon Steven D. Zubel, St. Joan of Arc parish.*