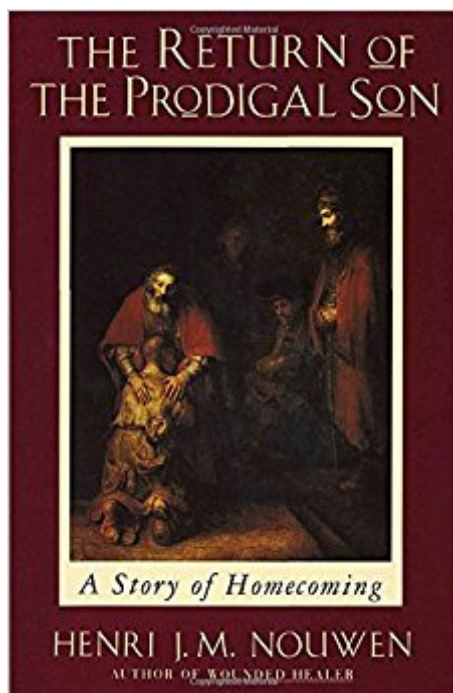


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The Return Of The Prodigal Son: A Story Of Homecoming



Synopsis

For all who ask, "Where has my struggle led me?" or for those "on the road" who have had the courage to embark on the journey but seek the illumination, this work will inspire. A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* catapulted Henri Nouwen on a long spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. In seizing the inspiration that came to him through Rembrandt's depiction of the powerful Gospel story, Henri Nouwen probes the several movements of the parable: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's vengefulness, and the father's compassion. In his reflection on Rembrandt in light of his own life journey, the author evokes a powerful drama of the parable in a rich, captivating way that is sure to reverberate in the hearts of readers. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger. The challenge to love as the father and be loved as the son will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times. "The Return of the Prodigal Son is a beautiful book, as beautiful in the simple clarity of its wisdom as in the terrible beauty of the transformation to which it calls us." --New Oxford Review

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Customer Reviews

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming is a spiritual adventure story. A chance

encounter with a poster depicting a detail of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* set in motion a chain of events that enabled Nouwen to redefine and claim his vocation late in his life. In this book, which interweaves elements of art history, memoir, Midrash, and self-help, Nouwen brings the parable to life with empathic analyses of each character. Nouwen's absorption in the story (and the painting) is so complete that the father's challenge to love the son, and the son's challenge to receive that love, become Nouwen's own. And Nouwen's writing is so clear and his tone is so appealingly frank and humble that readers--no matter how far from home--will find hope for themselves in the prodigal peace Nouwen ultimately achieves. --Michael Joseph Gross

The beloved spiritual writer meditates on the parable of the prodigal son's return -- a powerful drama of fatherhood, filial duty, rivalry, and anger between brothers -- and its enduring lessons for Christianity. Full-color photographs with gatefold.

This book explains how we are the son who stayed home, the prodigal son, and the father in our lifetime. What we do with each of these roles leads us to search deep inside and become the person God created us to be. I have given several copies away to family members.

This was a book that was surprisingly interesting causing thoughtful deep unexpected reflection. I was expecting not to find too much new in a book about the prodigal son, but I was terribly wrong. Rev. Nouwen surprised and delighted with his personal reflections and analysis of the protagonist, as well as all of the other personalities in the story. His insights about the "other son" were something I would never have expected (won't give it away), as were the reflections about the father. His insightful analysis, looking at the details of the painting an painter, coupled with his personal critical reflection on his own shortcomings makes this a book you won't forget. This book should be read slowly because it is so thought provoking. It was a pure delight to read this book, and it is one I know I will read again because it is too rich for only one reading. Dr. Tom Accardi

This book is one everyone should read. I have read it twice and have bought extra copies to give to people. Most people know that they have rebellious patterns in their life and feel like a prodigal child at times. They want to be forgiven, they want to start over. They know a change needs to be made, but where do you start... This book gives answers to these questions, but more than that I show us that we also need to deal with the other elder brother who is inside each of us. The brother who feels slighted, used, looked over, unappreciated, etc. That soul is also hurting and needs some love

and forgiveness. But the kicker in this book is... That eventually we all need to become the loving forgiving FATHER, to help others through our forgiveness and personal blessing. We have all been the two brothers. We now need to nurture ourselves and grow in to the adult Father or Mother for all the little prodigal children that come our way. Blessings

The monograph is an analysis of the meaning of the Prodigal Son parable from the New Testament. The author provides insight into the parable using Rembrandt's art as a guide. While the monograph seems to also be a self-analysis of the author [who was a Priest, he died in the early 1990s], it should help the reader think about repentance and forgiveness. The reader should try to obtain another picture of Rembrandt's Prodigal Son as the copy of the picture in the book is not that clear; the author references objects in the picture which cannot be seen in the book's picture, but are visible in better pictures. Overall, a good book for a Book Club that is interested in exploring religious issues.

Once again Nouwen explains the struggle within this maturing spiritual adult. He makes personal the journey that so many fear to clearly understand, we are meant to grow into the image of our Father who art in heaven. This soul crafting and image bearing are not naturally assumed but divinely planned and intentionally designed by the very Father who calls us to live out Heaven on earth. Once again inspired to live up to the high calling of servant of Christ.

I haven't finished this book yet. There is never any need to hurry while reading Nouwen. His prose may be deceptively simple, yet the thoughts they invoke in the reader can be profound. If Nouwen spent most of his life contemplating this painting and the various persons he was throughout his own life, then the reader can take their time in absorbing it all, and reflecting on their own place in the painting. Highly recommended.

I have learned much from this book. I love the part where he says grieving is praying. I can also relate to the author's experience of recognizing ourselves as younger son, older son, and then finally the father.

This book sums up the life and experience of theologian, Henri Nouwen. After nearly thirty years as a lecturer at Harvard, Yale and Notre Dame, Nouwen discovered the painting of Rembrandt, THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, which is in the Hermitage museum in St. Petersburg,

Russia. Nouwen flew there and sat before the painting for two days. He saw his own life reflected in Rembrandt's visualization of the parable. Nouwen wrote this book, gave up lecturing and spent the remainder of his life as a chaplain in a home for disabled children. It is an extraordinarily sensitive document of the transformed life of a brilliant academic teacher.

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