



## **A Surprising Twist** Luke 15:11-24

**Listen!** There are two different versions of family meltdown:

- The front yard version:
- The back yard version:

**Why talk about this?** Both of these families ended up in the ditch—there must be a way to end up with families that are intact and intimate. How do we end well in our families?

### ***“It Was a Dark and Stormy Night—Family Version”***

**Chapter One:** Once upon a time there was a wonderful family... v 11.

**Chapter Two:** Very soon things turned ugly as one son... vv 12-19.

**Chapter Three:** Then the plot took a surprising twist when the father... vv 20-24.

**Chapter Four:** The result of the father’s amazing choice was...

**Chapter Five:** The emotional elements of this whole rollercoaster ride were...

**Chapter Six:** The choices of this father are choices for us to...

**Chapter Seven:** The reason God told us this story is so we would...

**The Big Question:** What is the surprising choice that brings families to be intact and intimate?

**The Big Answer:** ...the choice is rejoicing forgiveness and restoring acceptance.

**APPLICATIONS:** Would you be willing to alter your attitude and your behavior in your own family? The Walking Papers detail some major applications:

# Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

**The Big Idea of this passage:** The amazing choice that brings families to be intact and intimate is rejoicing forgiveness and restoring acceptance.

Please take time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today:** What ugly things have you experienced at the hands of your family members? How do you feel about them? How have you reacted? Are you holding a grudge?
- **Monday:** Would you be willing to engage that family member and forgive them?
- **Tuesday:** Would you be willing to cultivate irrational, unconditional, un-coerced, rejoicing forgiveness and restoring acceptance toward all of your family members? What specific thing would you be willing to do as a start?
- **Wednesday:** What second thing would you be willing to do?
- **Thursday:** What third thing would you be willing to do?
- **Friday:** What fourth thing would you be willing to do?
- **Saturday:** What fifth thing would you be willing to do?

*“If I make choices like God’s choices my family will end up intact and intimate!”*