**The Sting in the Tale: The parable of the merciful father:**

**Luke 15:11-32**

**Introduction**

**1. The return of the rebel: 11-24**

**2. The protest of the pious: 25-32**

**Conclusion**

**Prayer**: Heavenly Father, I know I do not deserve to be part of your eternal kingdom.  Please forgive me for turning from you and trying to live life by myself. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to die in my place and rise again so I might be welcomed back into your family.  Please help me to live with Jesus as my king from now on.  Amen.