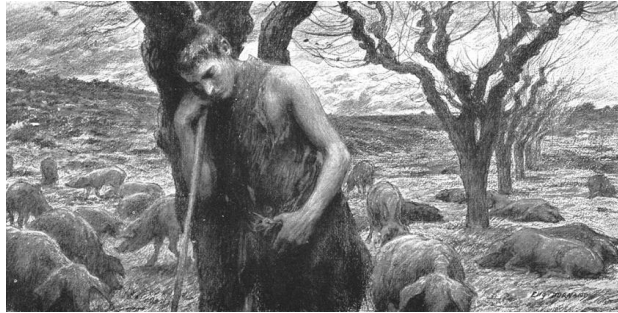


WHAT AM I DOING HERE?



When the prodigal son ran out of money, he scratched his head and said,

"What am I doing here?"

When he ended up feeding pigs, it became a cry of panic.

"What am I doing here?!"

Sometimes it's a prayer.

Sometimes it's a cry of despair.

For most of us it's a wake-up moment.

"But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."'"

For those of us who once walked in the light but are now stumbling in the shadows, it's the most profound question we can ask.

What am I doing here?

What am I waiting for?



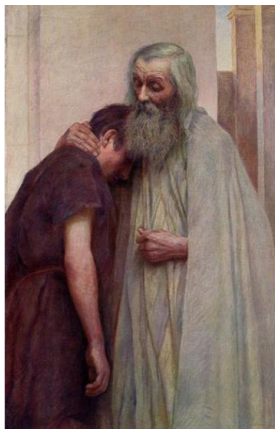
"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry."

So why are we wasting time?

We know what to do.

The mercy of God;
The cleansing blood of the Lamb;
The restoring power of the Spirit;

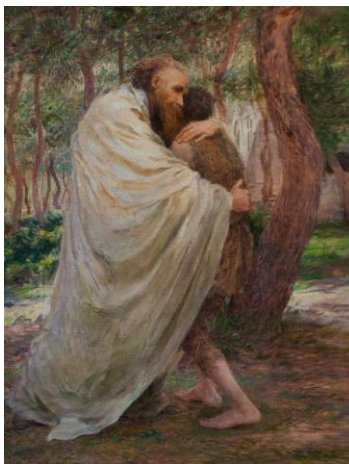
It's all closer than our breath.



All we have to do is turn around, and head for the Father's House.

“Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Luke 15



Prayer: Lord, we keep choosing loneliness, hunger, despair when instead we could be embraced in your loving arms. What are we doing here? What are we waiting for? Why are we wasting precious time? Help us to wake up, turn around, and head towards your house, to your loving arms where we will find the joy of complete welcome. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber February 2021
Featured Artist: Eugene Burnand (1850-1921)

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