

THE PRODIGAL SONS

Part Two

"I have always enjoyed our walks, Abe!" Michael said with excitement.

"It brings back memories...", said Abe.

"...Of our Father...", Michael continued.

"...Who absolutely enjoyed..." Abe continued.

"...His walks with us!" Michael ends.

"How we have changed, my brother," Abe reminisces.

"Yes, we have," Michael takes up the drift. "You have grown so loving, especially as a father!"

"And my wife would say, as a lover!" Abe grows a little embarrassed when he realized he had shared such an intimate thought.

"Speaking of Miriam, how is she doing?" Michael asks.

"She was in the kitchen when we met," Abe revealed. "That is why I picked the time to meet with you. I knew she would be busy, very busy."

"I am sure she loves it," Michael teased. "You both have such confidence that they will return, today!"

"We know our sons," Abe said proudly. "If they said that they are returning today, then they will return today."

"You know brother," Michael begins to reveal, "that every time we walk down this road, I always get in the mood to travel somewhere, anywhere."

"Like before," Abe teases gently.

"Yes, like before," Michael goes along. "It wasn't all bad, you know."

"Just until the money ran out," Abe teases a little harder.

"Yes, brother, after I ran out of money," Michael admits honestly. "That's when I learned who my real friends were, but mostly, that is when I found out how much I missed home and was loved at home by my family."

"I wish that I could have been part of that, brother," Abe admits, "but my own blindness from jealousy kept me from seeing that truth also."

"But unlike me, your wife gave you the greatest gift of all, that even I am *envious!*" Michael admits.

"And what is that?" Abe asks.

"She watered the seed of love that was already there, just waiting to sprout," Michael said lovingly, "A seed that our parents had planted."

"Yes, that is true," he said. "I have told you many times how her love finally removed the blinders covering my eyes. From that moment on I never doubted the love our parents had for us!"

"And you have passed that love on to your sons," Michael said proudly. "Look what wonderful men they have become! Yahweh, be praised!"

"...Through all generations!" Abe responded. "But what about you? Tell me more of your own encounter with the Lord, Adonai. You said that God whispered to you."

"I didn't say that!" Michael exclaimed rather excitedly. "By the way, we are turning around at that point there, or you will have to carry me back."

"Me carry you?" Abe exclaimed. "You are the one in the best shape, though looking like a skeleton!"

"And if you would take care of yourself and not eat so much," Michael returned.

"This mound is the sure sign of my love for my wife," he said, patting his stomach.

"...A sure sign of your love for her cooking," Michael teased.

"That too!" he returned. "You are avoiding my question about your vision of Yahweh."

"You'll be adding a burning bush next," Michael said laughing.

"Seriously," Abe pleaded, "I am interested."

"Well, it is simply that there are times when I almost can feel the presence of God all around me, covering me, protecting me," Michael tries to explain. "It is like a blanket of love enveloping me. Sometimes it is so intense that I could almost beg to die! Take me Lord, now! Let me experience your presence, even though I know it will kill me. At least I will die in love for you, my God!"

"Wow! Michael, how special," Abe exclaimed. "You are well named, 'God-like'."

"Oh, brother, you should experience the feeling I get when I come and visit here! It is like Yahweh finds such delight in your family and feels at home here. You and your family are pleasing to the Lord, brother!"

"Oh?" Abe responds almost speechless. "I wonder if He would mind if my wife and I take a little trip?"

"You seem to be getting a little wanderlust also," Michael said laughing.

"That is why your idea to travel together may not be such a bad idea after all."

"Were you thinking of any place in particular, brother?" Michael asks.

"You know we have relatives in Egypt," Abe states.

"Yes, I know, and that would be ideal, since it would give us a place to stay after a long journey, and with someone we know," Michael said excitedly.

"Father mentioned it several times," Abe said, "like he was strongly hinting at something."

"Maybe he was hinting that you should find wives for your sons there," Michael offers.

"I was thinking the same thing," he said. "I also think that Father knew that I had a little of the wanderlust in me too, and this would give me a somewhat safe destination far enough to satisfy that urge."

"When I suggested that your sons go for a long business trip," Michael mentioned, "it was with the purpose of getting the young men out of the house and getting experience in the world, especially in business."

"Yes, I know, and I supported it whole heartedly," Abe returned. "But I also saw it as a chance for them to get away from under us and give them a more *controlled* chance of "seeing" the world like you did!"

"Ha! I knew it!" Michael laughed. "I was wondering why you went along so easily."

"It was Miriam that I had to convince in the end," Abe added.

"Abe! Look! I see a caravan approaching!" Michael said, pointing.

"What a crowd! I wonder what that is all about," he said excitedly. "Do you think it is them"

"It could be," Michael suggested. "I did give them a sizable amount of money to bargain with." He noticed Abe's disapproving look, but added, "They may not have another chance like this again in a long time."

"I also gave them a big chunk of money," Abe confessed, "for the same reason." Both men laughed. "I think those are the boys riding in front together!"

"Inseparable!" Michael added. "Looks like they are ready to race ahead!"

"I wonder what is holding them back." Abe asked almost to himself. "It is so unlike them!"

"Maybe their precious cargo," Michael began to figure it out. "Look at the two wagons behind them!"

"What about them?" Abe asked.

"They're covered..." Michael started to explain.

"...And only women," Abe added.

"...Ride in covered wagons," Michael ended.

"No! You don't think so?" Abe interjected excitedly.

"They could have," Michael suggested, "Since we did give them a lot of money! But we should wait until they get closer!"

"Grandchild!" Abe started to tear up.

"Maybe we should wait until they get closer," Michael suggested again. "It may be something else."

"Oh, Miriam!" Abe was ecstatic by now, even though his wife couldn't hear him.

"Trip to Egypt?" Michael mumbles.