

BEYOND

Comparison

LUKE 15:11-32

MARCH 26, 2023



















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P I C T U R E

EX- LADY

Bette
DAVIS
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“You should never
say bad things
about the dead;
you should only say
good. Joan Crawford
is dead. Good.”

(Bette Davis, according to Greg Braxton's
article *'Feud: Bette and Joan': This is Not a
Love Story* in the *Los Angeles Times*,
March 3, 2017)





LIFE'S  **SHORT**

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Luke 15:11-32 (ESV): “And he said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.” And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need....”

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“...¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. **BEYOND**  Treat me as one of your hired servants....’” *Comparison*

“...²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ 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.” ²² 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. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate....”

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“...²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.” ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,...

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“...²⁹ but he answered his father, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!” ³¹ And he said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.””

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“But presently, as they were on the point of joining battle, with no apparent change of weather, but all on a sudden, the sky burst asunder, and a huge, flame-like body was seen to fall between the two armies. In shape, it was most like a wine-jar, and in color, like molten silver. Both sides were astonished at the sight and separated.”

(From Plutarch's *The Life of Lucullus*, chapter 8.6)





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Romans 3:21-25 (ESV): “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”

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EVERYTHING'S MADE UP,
AND THE
POINTS DON'T MATTER.



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John 21:22 (ESV): “Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!’”

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1 Corinthians 4:4-5 (ESV): “It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.”

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THE GAME IS
WON,
SO PLAY FOR
FUN.

APPLICATION 

Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV): “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

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Romans 14:4 (ESV): “Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”



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LIFE'S TOO SHORT

Hebrews
12:7-17