

Prodigal Love

St. Croix Church

Sunday, March 30th, 2025





“Making the decision to have a child – it is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.”

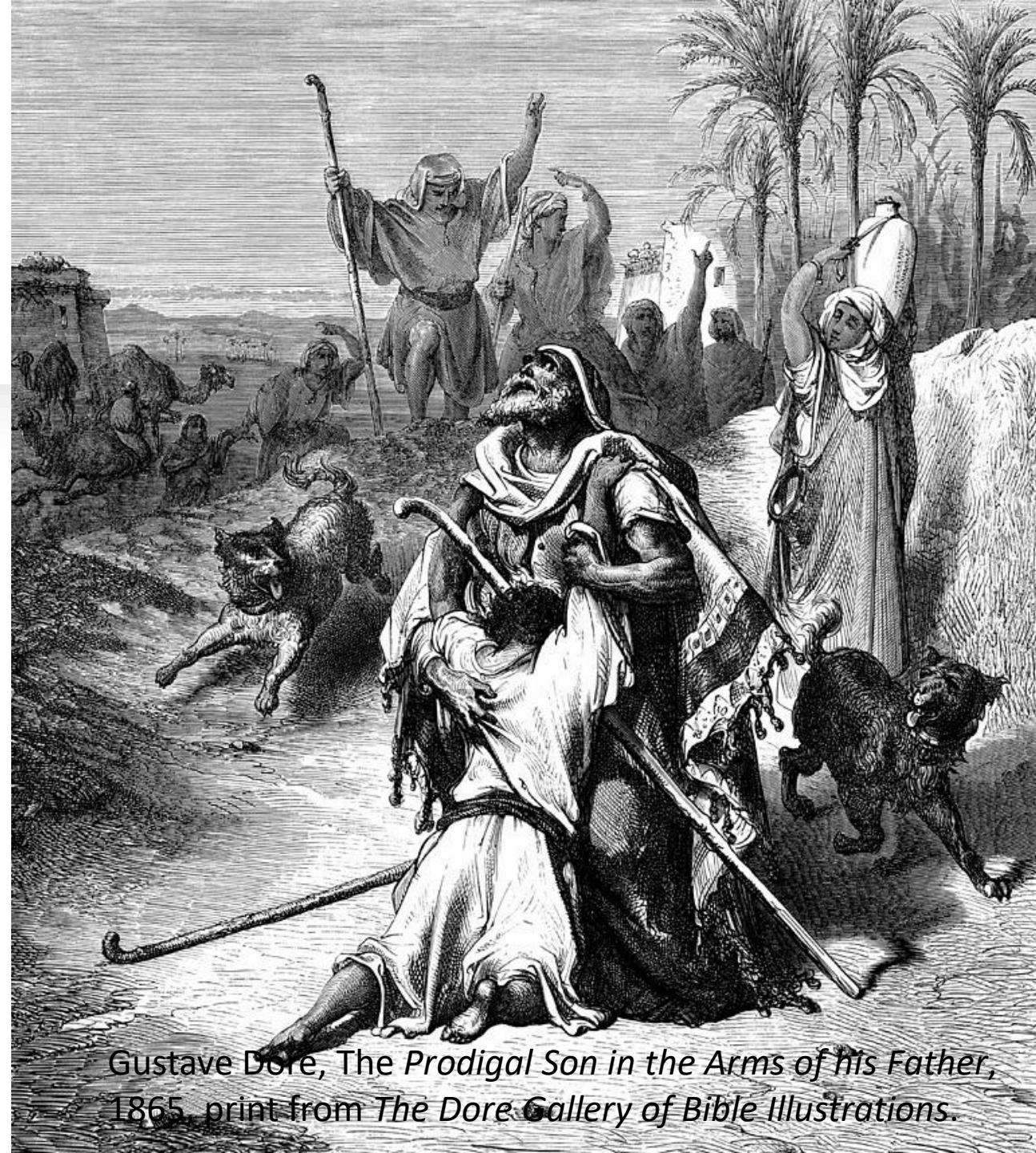
-elizabeth stone

Prodigal: Spending resources freely and recklessly; being wastefully extravagant.

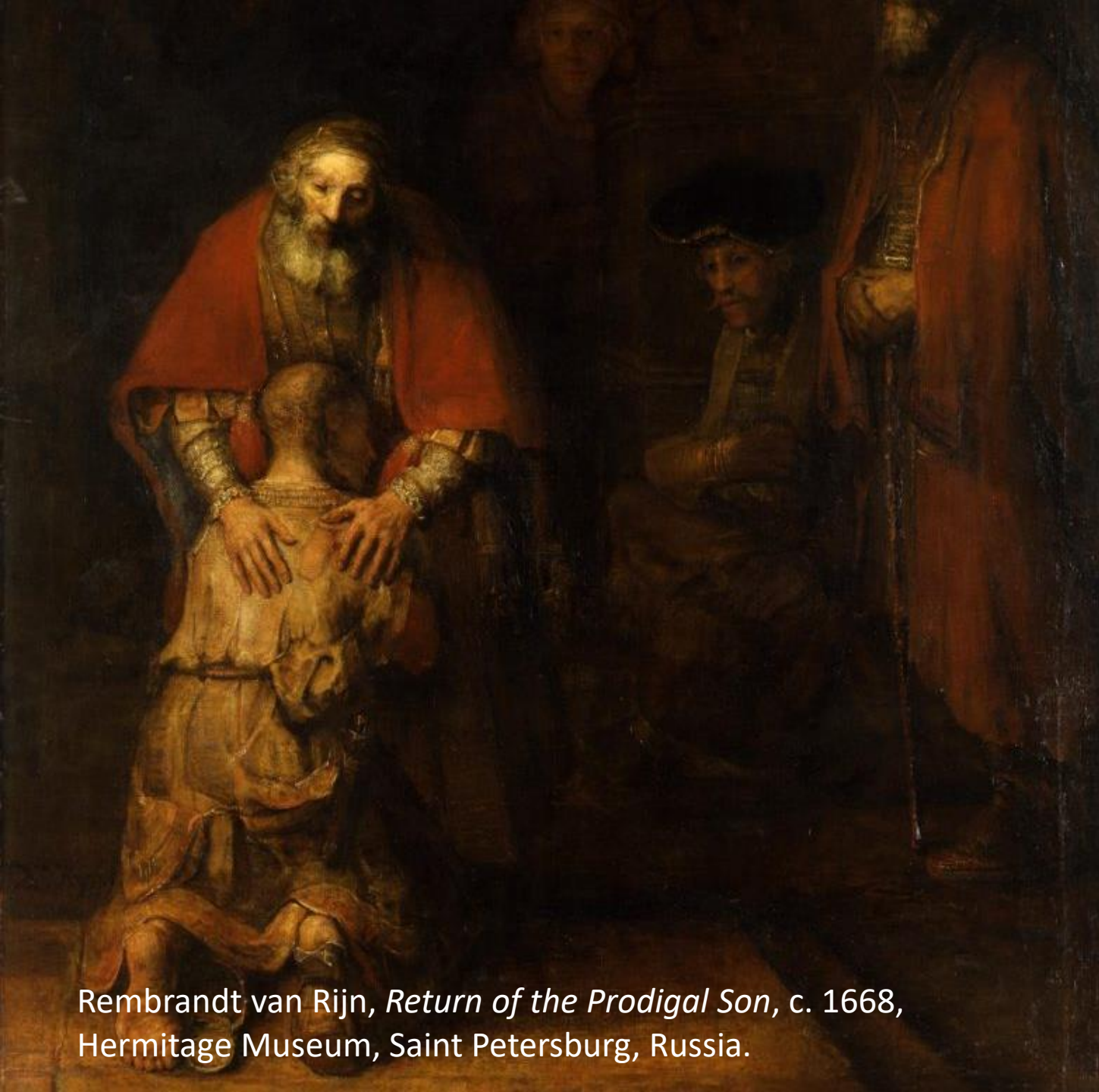


Rembrandt van Rijn, *Rembrandt and Saskia in The Prodigal Son*, 1635, Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden, Germany.

This is Prodigal Love.



Gustave Doré, *The Prodigal Son in the Arms of His Father*, 1865, print from *The Dore Gallery of Bible Illustrations*.



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Return of the Prodigal Son*, c. 1668,
Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The question is not “How am I to find God?” but “How am I to let myself be found by him?” The question is not “How am I to know God?” but “How am I to let myself be known by God?” And, finally, the question is not “How am I to love God?” but “How am I to let myself be loved by God?”

— Henri Nouwen



John Macallan Swan, *The Prodigal Son*, 1888, Tate, London, England, UK.

“I now see that the hands that forgive, console, heal, and offer a festive meal must become my own.”

— Henri Nouwen,
Return of the Prodigal Son



Michel Martin Drolling, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1806, Museum of Fine Arts of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France.