

# REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

## PRODIGAL SON

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells about the parable of the prodigal son. Now, many of us may have heard this parable several times in our lives, but we tend to brush it off as just another cliché bible verse. It is written, “This son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found” (Lk 15:34). Just this past weekend, we have all either discovered the Spirit, or have been renewed in the Spirit once again. How many times have we looked into our past, and instead of moving forward, we repeated past mistakes and lived in the same pain and suffering? The readings Jesus has given us gives us a new hope, not just a hope within our selves, but a hope consecrated around Him and the Holy Spirit. **Like the prodigal son, how many of us can say we have been lost (spiritually or emotionally)?** But unlike the prodigal son, until this past weekend, how many of us can say we have been found?

Through the Spirit, Jesus gives us hope of a fruitful future. The second reading justifies this when St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” Deep within our hearts, there may be some certain thing we hold onto that only creates within us a heavy heart, a heart made of stone. But let us pray to the Lord to finally let it go, and set it at the foot of His cross. He directly tells us that by giving this personal sacrifice, he will not let us suffer, but will continue to let us prosper. He will create within us someone new, someone of Christ. What is it that we hold onto that can be better than what the Lord will give us? There is nothing but the gifts from God that can save us, and this past weekend, the Holy Spirit has showered us with many gifts. Let us pray that this is our first step towards salvation and that we may continue to move forward, not by ourselves, but along a path with God.

Father God, many times we have failed you. However, you have never failed us. Many times we have sinned against you, but never have you left us. We pray Lord, to lift up all of our burdens, all of our sorrows and guilt, all of the troubles that hinder us from growing as an individual with You by our side. Lord, we empty ourselves with the knowledge that You will fill us with your most Holy Spirit. We praise you, Lord God, forever, for you have never left us. We praise you Lord, because we know that no matter what road block comes along our spiritual path, you will not let us become still, but you will lift us in your mighty over that road block, so that we may be able to continue to live on a path towards salvation, towards You. We declare now and forever, Lord, that we are your children. You are our saving grace, and our one desire. Lord God, we’ve all fallen in Love with you once again. AMEN.

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)***

2013 Youth Worship Reflection