



## Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

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A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's painting, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, catapulted Henri Nouwen into a long spiritual adventure. In his highly-acclaimed book of the same title, he shares the deeply personal meditation that led him to discover the place within which God has chosen to dwell. This Lent course, which has been adapted from the book, helps us to reflect on the meaning of the parable for our own lives. Divided into five sessions, the course moves through the parable exploring our reaction to the story: the younger son's leaving and return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's resentment and the father's compassion. All of us who have experienced loneliness, dejection, jealousy or anger will respond to the persistent themes of homecoming, affirmation and reconciliation. Each session contained on the CD includes extracts from the book by Henri Nouwen, and background information about Henri Nouwen's life, as well as suggestions for reflection. Notes for Group Leaders and written questions for group discussion are also included in the enclosed booklet.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

He was born in the Netherlands in 1932. An ordained priest and gifted teacher, he taught at several universities including Notre Dame, Harvard and Yale. He was a missionary in Peru. He died of a heart attack in 1996.

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In examining the parable of the prodigal son and Rembrandt's painting of the story, Nouwen, a renowned Christian theologian, seeker, and priest, explores its themes--grief, compassion and forgiveness--and their impact on our lives. Recording five years before his sudden death, Nouwen seems to relish the opportunity to share his insights and stories with a conference audience. As he speaks with a Dutch accent, his pace quickens and slows; his voice rises and falls as emotion dictates. One can feel the excitement he feels for his message. P.B.J. © AudioFile 2002, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

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##### **Marilyn Leonard:**

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##### **Debbie Allen:**

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**Marcella Baird:**

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