

The Prodigal Son

Workbook compiled by Dr Cressida Ryan, University of Oxford.

A. Vocab

This is a long story, so there is a lot of vocab. Skim the vocab first, and use it to summarise the progress of the story in a series of about 5-6 bullet points. Then make notes to help you remember it.

1. νεος – new, young
2. ἐπιβαλλω – fall to (by inheritance)
3. ἡ οὐσία - the property
4. διαιρω – I divide
5. ὁ βιος – the life, livelihood
6. ἀποδημεω – I leave
7. διασκορπιζω – I squander
8. ἀσωτως - recklessly
9. δαπαναω – I spend
10. ὁ / ἡ λιμος - hunger
11. ὑστερεω – I am in need
12. κολλαω – I hire myself out
13. ὁ πολιτης – the citizen
14. βοσκω – I tend
15. ὁ χοιρος – the pig
16. ἐπιθυμεω – I long (for)
17. χορταζω – I eat my fill
18. το κεραιον – the husk (pod of a carob tree)
19. ποσος – how much
20. ὁ μισθιος – the hired worker
21. μακρान – far off

22. ἀπεχω – I am far off
23. σπλαχνίζομαι – I have pity
24. τρεχω – I run
25. ἐπιπιπτω – I fall (on)
26. ὁ τραχηλος – the neck
27. καταφιλεω – I kiss
28. ταχυς - quickly
29. ἐκφερω – I bring (out)
30. ἡ στολη – the robe
31. ἐνδύω – I put on
32. ὁ δακτυλιος – the ring
33. το ὑποδημα, ὑποδηματος – the sandal
34. ὁ μοσχος – the calf
35. σιτευτος - fattened
36. θυω – I sacrifice, kill
37. εὐφραίνω – I make merry, celebrate
38. ἀναζαω – I come back to life
39. ἡ συμφωνια – the music
40. ὁ χορος – the dancing
41. προσκαλεομαι – I call to myself
42. ὁ παις, παιδος – the child
43. πυνθανομαι – I enquire
44. ὑγιαίνω – I am healthy, safe
45. ἀπολαμβάνω – I get back
46. τοσουτος – so much
47. δουλεύω – I serve
48. οὐδέποτε - never
49. παρερχομαι – you've had this a few times. What did it mean? Why is it used here? The suggestion for here might be 'obey'.

- 50. ό έριφος – the goat
- 51. ή πορνη – the prostitute
- 52. σος - your
- 53. χαιρω – I rejoice

B. Streamlined version

The version below is in simplified Greek. Clauses are broken up, verbs are mainly in the present tense, and difficult vocab is replaced with equivalent words. Reading this might help you get an underlying sense of the text before you start reading the unadapted text.

λεγει 'Ανθρωπος τις έχει δυο υίους. ό φεωτερος λεγει προς τον πατερα, 'Πατερ,δος μοι την κληρονομιαν μου.' ό πατηρ διαιρει τα ύπαρχοντα αυτου. μετα τινας ήμερας, ό νεωτερος υίος συναγει παντα τα ύπαρχοντα, και έισερχεται εις χωραν μακραν. έχει διασκορπιζει τα ύπαρχοντα διοτι ζη κακως. τοτε έστι λιμος κακος έν εκείνη τη χωρα. ό υίος αρχεται έχειν χρεια. πορευεται και ποιει έργα ύπερ πλουσιου ανθρωπου. ό πλουσιος ανθρωπος πεμπει αυτον εις τον άγρον, βοσκειν χοιρους. ό υίος θελω έσθειν ταυτα, ά οί χοιροι έσθιουσιν. ουδεις διδωσι ταυτα αυτω. δοκει προς έαυτον και λεγει 'οί δουλοι πατρος μου έχουσιν μισθους και πολυν άρτον. άλλα έγω ουκ έχει άρτον. άποθνησκω.

ίστημι, και πορευομαι προς τον πατερα μου, και λεγω αυτω, 'πατερ, άμαρτανω προς τον ουρανον και ένωπιον σε. ειμι ουκετι ό υίος σου. ποιει με δουλον σου.' ίστησι. έρχεται προς τον πατερα αυτου. ότε ό υίος έστι μακραν, ό πατηρ όρα αυτον και φιλει αυτον. τρεχει και έπιπιπτει έπι αυτον, και καταφιλει αυτον. ό υίος λεγει 'πατερ, άμαρτανω προς τον ουρανον και ένωπιον σου. ειμι ουκετι ό

υἱός σου.’ ὁ πατήρ λέγει πρὸς τοὺς δούλους. ‘ταχέως, φερετε τὸ ἀγαθὸν ἱμάτιον. ἐνδύετε τὸν υἱόν. δοτε δακτυλίον εἰς τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ὑποδήματα εἰς τοὺς ποδας. φερετε τὸν καλὸν βουν. ἀποκτείνετε αὐτόν. ἐσθιομεν καὶ ἐσμεν μακαριοι, διότι οὗτος ὁ υἱὸς μου ἦν νεκρὸς καὶ νυν ζῆ. ἦν ἀπολωλὼς καὶ νυν ἐγὼ εὕρισκω αὐτόν.’ ἀρχονται εἶναι μακαριοι.

ὁ ἄλλος υἱὸς ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ. ἐρχεται ἐγγιζει τὴ οἰκίαν. ἀκούει συμφωνίας καὶ χορῶν. καλεῖ ἓνα δούλον καὶ ἐρωτᾷ ‘τί ἐστι;’. ὁ δούλος λέγει πρὸς αὐτόν ‘Ὁ ἀδελφὸς σου ἦκει. ὁ πατήρ σου ἀποκτείνει τὸν ἀγαθὸν βουν, διότι ὁ ἀδελφὸς σου σωζεται.’ ὁ υἱὸς ὀργίζεται καὶ οὐ θέλει εἰσερχεσθαι. ὁ πατήρ αὐτοῦ ἐξέρχεται καὶ καλεῖ αὐτόν. ἀποκρίνεται καὶ λέγει πρὸς τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ, ‘Ἴδου, δουλεύω πολλὰ ἔτη σοι καὶ οὐ παρερχεται τὴν ἐντολήν σου. οὐ δίδωσι μοι πρόβατον ἵνα ἐσθῆ μετὰ τῶν φίλων μου. οὗτος ὁ υἱὸς σου ἐρχεται. οὗτος κατεσθίει τὰ ὑπαρχοντα μετὰ κακῶν. ἀποκτείνει τὸν ἀγαθὸν βουν αὐτῷ.’ ὁ πατήρ λέγει αὐτῷ, ‘Τεκνον, συ εἶ πάντοτε μετ’ ἐμοῦ, καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐμα ὑπαρχοντα ἐστὶν σα. δεῖ εἶναι μακαριος, διότι ὁ ἀδελφὸς σου ἦν νεκρὸς καὶ νυν ζῆ. ἦν ἀπολωλὼς καὶ νυν εὕρισκω αὐτόν.

C. Reading the main text

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Εἶπεν δέ, Ἄνθρωπός τις εἶχεν δύο υἱούς. **12** καὶ εἶπεν ὁ νεώτερος αὐτῶν τῷ πατρί, Πάτερ, δός μοι τὸ ἐπιβάλλον μέρος τῆς οὐσίας. ὁ δὲ διεἴλεν αὐτοῖς τὸν

βίον. **13** καὶ μετ' οὐ πολλὰς ἡμέρας συναγαγὼν πάντα ὁ νεώτερος υἱὸς ἀπεδήμησεν εἰς χώραν μακρὰν καὶ ἐκεῖ διεσκόρπισεν τὴν οὐσίαν αὐτοῦ ζῶν ἀσώτως. **14** δαπανήσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ πάντα ἐγένετο λιμὸς ἰσχυρὰ κατὰ τὴν χώραν ἐκείνην, καὶ αὐτὸς ἤρξατο ὑστερεῖσθαι. **15** καὶ πορευθεὶς ἐκολλήθη ἐνὶ τῶν πολιτῶν τῆς χώρας ἐκείνης, καὶ ἔπεμψεν αὐτὸν εἰς τοὺς ἀγροὺς αὐτοῦ βόσκειν χοίρους, **16** καὶ ἐπεθύμει χορτασθῆναι ἐκ τῶν κερατίων ὧν ἤσθιον οἱ χοῖροι, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδίδου αὐτῷ. **17** εἰς ἑαυτὸν δὲ ἐλθὼν ἔφη, Πόσοι μίσθιοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου περισσεύονται ἄρτων, ἐγὼ δὲ λιμῷ ὧδε ἀπόλλυμαι. **18** ἀναστὰς πορεύσομαι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα μου καὶ ἐρῶ αὐτῷ, Πάτερ, ἤμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου, **19** οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἱὸς σου· ποιήσόν με ὡς ἓνα τῶν μισθίων σου. **20** καὶ ἀναστὰς ἦλθεν πρὸς τὸν πατέρα ἑαυτοῦ. ἔτι δὲ αὐτοῦ μακρὰν ἀπέχοντος εἶδεν αὐτὸν ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη καὶ δραμῶν ἐπέπεσεν ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτοῦ καὶ κατεφίλησεν αὐτόν. **21** εἶπεν δὲ ὁ υἱὸς αὐτῷ, Πάτερ, ἤμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου, οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἱὸς σου. **22** εἶπεν δὲ ὁ πατὴρ πρὸς τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ, Ταχὺ ἐξενέγκατε στολὴν τὴν πρώτην καὶ ἐνδύσατε αὐτόν, καὶ δότε δακτύλιον εἰς τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ὑποδήματα εἰς τοὺς πόδας, **23** καὶ φέρετε τὸν μόσχον τὸν

σιτευτόν, θύσατε, καὶ φαγόντες εὐφρανθῶμεν, **24** ὅτι οὗτος ὁ υἱός μου νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέζησεν, ἦν ἀπολωλὼς καὶ εὐρέθη. καὶ ἤρξαντο εὐφραίνεσθαι. **25** Ἦν δὲ ὁ υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐν ἀγρῶ· καὶ ὡς ἐρχόμενος ἤγγισεν τῇ οἰκίᾳ, ἤκουσεν συμφωνίας καὶ χορῶν, **26** καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος ἓνα τῶν παιδῶν ἐπυνθάνετο τί ἂν εἴη ταῦτα. **27** ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὅτι Ὁ ἀδελφός σου ἦκει, καὶ ἔθυσεν ὁ πατήρ σου τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτόν, ὅτι ὑγιαίνοντα αὐτὸν ἀπέλαβεν. **28** ὠργίσθη δὲ καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν εἰσελθεῖν, ὁ δὲ πατήρ αὐτοῦ ἐξελθὼν παρεκάλει αὐτόν. **29** ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ, Ἴδου τοσαῦτα ἔτη δουλεύω σοι καὶ οὐδέποτε ἐντολήν σου παρήλθον, καὶ ἐμοὶ οὐδέποτε ἔδωκας ἔριφον ἵνα μετὰ τῶν φίλων μου εὐφρανθῶ **30** ὅτε δὲ ὁ υἱός σου οὗτος ὁ καταφαγὼν σου τὸν βίον μετὰ πορνῶν ἦλθεν, ἔθυσας αὐτῷ τὸν σιτευτόν μόσχον. **31** ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Τέκνον, σὺ πάντοτε μετ' ἐμοῦ εἶ, καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐμὰ σὰ ἐστίν **32** εὐφρανθῆναι δὲ καὶ χαρῆναι ἔδει, ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου οὗτος νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἔζησεν, καὶ ἀπολωλὼς καὶ εὐρέθη.

D. Textual criticism

Look at verses 18-21 in the UBS edition. Which reading would you choose, and why?

15.21 υἱός σου. ^φ75 A L W Byz // υἱός σου. ποιήσόν με ὡς ἓνα τῶν μισθίων σου. (see 15.19) **X B (D) 33**

There are also queries about a couple of other verses. Which readings would you follow here? What does the UBS do? Why have they not flagged them as textual problems?

23 WH: φέρετε RP: ἐνέγκαντες 24 WH: ἀνέζησεν {WH}: ἔζησεν // WH: ἦν ἀπολωλώς καὶ RP: καὶ ἀπολωλώς ἦν 26 RP: omit ἂν 28 WH: δὲ RP: οὖν 29 RP: omit αὐτοῦ // WH: ἔριφον {WH}: ἐρίφιον 30 {WH}: add τῶν before πορνῶν // WH: σιτευτὸν μόσχον RP: μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν 32 WH: ἔζησεν RP: ἀνέζησεν // RP: add ἦν after ἀπολωλώς

E. Thinking about translation

Prodigal Son Translation mish-mash

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would fain ^[d] have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 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. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

1. How many different translations are represented here?
2. Which verses belong to which translation?
3. Can you identify any of the translations?

Try writing a cartoon version of the story. How many boxes do you need? What scenes do you represent? What words do you put under the pictures? What words do you put in the pictures?