

## Reflection Saturday Lent 2 – 2021

Some have suggested that we call Jesus' parable of the prodigal son the ***Prodigal Father***. After all, it is about the love and compassion of a father for his son and offers to many the best picture and image of our loving and forgiving Father. As the prophet Micah says: *What god can compare with you: taking fault away, pardoning crime, not cherishing anger for ever but delighting in showing mercy?* Micah had not even heard the story of the Prodigal Father!!

**Story:** It was a cold December night. Thomas Edison's factory was humming with activity everyone was busy. Work was proceeding on a variety of fronts as the great inventor was trying to turn more of his dreams into practical reality. Little did he know that he will soon have a chance to start over. Edison's plant, made of concrete and steel, was deemed "fireproof". As you may have already guessed, it wasn't!

On that frigid night in 1914, the sky was lit up by a sensational blaze that had burst through the plant roof. Edison's 24-year-old son, Charles, made a frenzied search for his famous inventor-father. When he finally found him, he was watching the fire. His white hair was blowing in the wind. His face was illuminated by the leaping flames. *"My heart ached for him,"* said Charles. *"Here he was, 67 years old, and everything he had worked for was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, 'Charles! Where's your mother?' When I told him I didn't know, he said, 'Find her! Bring her here! She'll never see anything like this as long as she lives.'"*

Next morning, Mr. Edison looked at the ruins of his factory and said this of his loss: *"There's value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God, we can start anew."*

What a wonderful perspective on things that seem at first to be so disastrous. A business failure, divorce, personal dream gone sour . . . whether these things destroy an individual depends largely on the attitude he or she takes toward them. Sort out why it happened, and learn something from the blunders. Think of different approaches that can be taken.

Lent is precisely an opportunity to start over. Turning more fully, more openly to God can mean setting fire to all that is unnecessary in our lives. The Prodigal Father offers us an opportunity to start over today and every day.