

1. Af - flic - tions, tho they seem se - vere, Are oft in mer - cy sent; They stopped the prod - i - gal's ca - reer, And caused him to re - pent.
 2. "What have I gained by sin," he said, "But hun - ger, shame, and fear? My fa - ther's house a - bounds with bread, Whilst I am starv - ing here."

3. He saw his son re - turn - ing back, He looked, he ran, he smiled, And threw his arms a - round the neck Of his re - bel - lious child.
 4. "Now let the fat - ted calf be slain; Go spread the news a - round: My son was dead but lives a - gain, Was lost, but now is found."

Al - tho he no re - lent - ing felt, Till he had spent his store, His stub - born heart be - gan to melt When fam - ine pinched him sore.
 I'll go and tell him all I've done, Fall down be - fore his face; Un - wor - thy to be called his son, I'll ask a ser - vant's place."

"Fa - ther, I've sinned, but O for - give!" And thus the fa - ther said: "Re - joice, my house! my son's a - live, For whom I mourned as dead."
 'Tis thus the Lord Him - self re - veals To call poor sin - ners home, More than the fa - ther's love He feels And bids the sin - ner come.