

# **JAMES, THE PRODIGAL, COMING BACK HOME**

*Story inspired by a power point of the Vietnam War*

## **Intent of the Story**

- *Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it to me.*
- *Who is my mother, or father, brother or sister or son or daughter?*
- *Do good to others without distinction of class, creed, nationality or relationship*
- *Charity doesn't set boundaries within the family and friends.*
- *We have to accept others – especially our own – without conditions.*

## **The Story**

The parents of James did not hear of his run-away son for years on end. They thought him to be dead. One night, they were wakening up by a long phone call. It was James. He told his parents the good news of his coming back home.

His Parents, overjoyed, told him;” You are most welcome! Do come home!” James however, asked his parents for a great favor. He told them. “I have a very good friend of mine, whose parents are not ready to take him home. May I bring him home to stay with us?” “Surely, he will be welcome home” James, parents answered: “Bring him along with you”

James remarked: “I cannot hide from you, however, that there is problem with him. He is crippled. He lost his right arm and one leg. Are you still willing to take him home:”

James’ parents replied: “In that case, we are sorry to say no, better, don’t bring him home. He is going to be too much of a nuisance to us. We are not prepared to take care of him. Tell him to find some body else to look after him” At that moment the phone went dead.

A few days later, a call came from a Police station from a far away town, informing: “A young man, called James, who committed suicide was found with your phone number in his wallet. If he is related to you, kindly, come and claim his body from the morgue”.

When, the afflicted parents went to the morgue to identify their son’s body, they discovered with horror and shock that James was the crippled boy with the missing right arm and leg!