

THE PRODIGAL SON

A Poem for Choral Speaking

by
James Weldon Johnson



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DARK MEN: Young man--
 Young man--
 Your arm's too short to box with God.

ALL: But Jesus spake in a parable, and he said:
SOLO: "A certain man had two sons."
LIGHT MEN: Jesus didn't give this man a name,
 But his name is God Almighty.

ALL: And Jesus didn't call these sons by name,
 But ev'ry young man,
 Ev'rywhere,
 Is one of these two sons.

*LIGHT MAN: And the younger son said to his father,
 He said: *"Father, divide up the property,
 And give me my portion now."
ALL: *DARK MAN: And the father with tears in his eyes said: *"Son,
 Don't leave your father's house."
ALL: But the boy was stubborn in his head,
 And haughty in his heart,
 And he took his share of his father's goods,
 And went into a far-off country.

DARK MEN: There comes a time,
 There comes a time
 When ev'ry young man looks out from his father's house,
 Longing for that far-off country.

ALL: And the young man journeyed on his way,
 And he said to himself as he traveled along:
SOLO: "This sure is an easy road,
 Nothing like the rough furrows behind my father's plow."

DARK MEN: Young man--
 Young man--
 Smooth and easy is the road

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---