

coming
HOME

WITH OPEN ARMS

BRAD GRAY

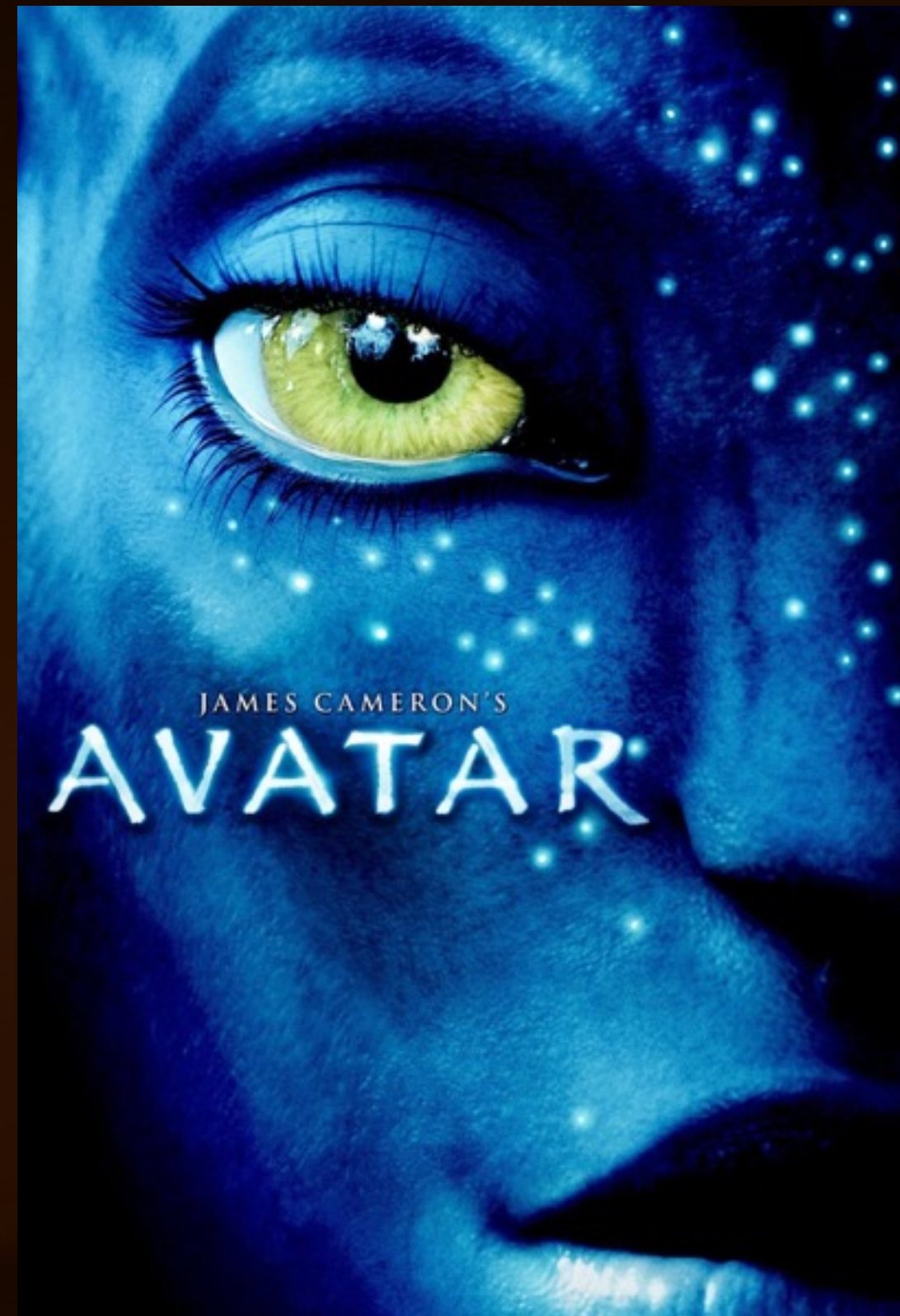
Luke 15

pg. 1048





\$868
Million



\$760
Million



\$658
Million

“saw” eyes

“compassion” stomach

“ran” legs

“hugged” arms

“kissed” lips

Every part of the father is seeking to
love and restore his son!



What he planned to say:

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.”

What he actually says:

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”



“He [the younger son] is shattered by his father’s demonstration of love and humiliation. In his state of apprehension and fear he would naturally experience this unexpected deliverance as an utterly overwhelming event. Now he knows that he cannot offer any solution to their ongoing relationship. He sees that the point is not the lost money, but rather the broken relationship which he cannot heal ...



... Now he understands that any new relationship must be a pure gift from his father. He can offer no solution. To assume that he can compensate his father with his labor is an insult. 'I am unworthy' is now the only appropriate response."

Kenneth Bailey, *Poet & Peasant*
and Through Peasant Eyes, 183-184



When we are met with the lavish, generous,
unbridled love of the Father, which
has no limits, things change.



The point is the lavish, generous, unbridled love of the Father, who will go to whatever lengths necessary to welcome us home, and restore us.



“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.”

1 Corinthians 1:21-23



“We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21



This is a God who is willing to humiliate
Himself and take on the shame in order
to enable His kids to come home!

And this is a God who welcomes His
kids home with open arms!



God, thank you for reaching out to me today. Thank you for opening my eyes to who you are. Like the younger son, I feel unworthy of your grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love. And yet you freely give them. They are nothing that can be earned; they can only be received. Today, I receive them. Today, I acknowledge that my sin has taken me far from home, and that only through the death of Jesus, who died on my behalf, can I come home. I accept you as my savior, and I'm grateful not only for your gift of eternal life, but also for the gift of a personal relationship with you that begins today. Thank you for welcoming me home! And let the journey of new life begin!

