

June 21, 2015
Luke 5:11-32

A FATHER'S LOVE

I. Introduction

II. God Loves Us so Much He Allows Us To Make Our Own Choices.

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. [12] The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' Luke 15:11-12

A. Three Ways The Son Offended His Father:

1. He asked for his inheritance early

"Father, give me my share of the estate." Luke 15:12

2. He Sold His Inheritance

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all that he had," Luke 15:13a.

3. He Squandered His Inheritance

"He set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living." Luke 15:13b

B. Three Steps To Returning Home:

1. Wake Up To Our True Condition:

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! Luke 15:17

2. Confession:

"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. [19] I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' Luke 15:18-19

3. Repentance:

“So he got up and went to his father.” Luke 15:20

III. The Father Is Willing and Anxious To Accept Those Who Return Home. (vv. 20-24)

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. [21] "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

[22] "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. [23] Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. [24] For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.” “Luke 15:20-24

IV. The Father Expects His Children To Rejoice Over the Return of the Fallen. (vv. 25-32)

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. [26] So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. [27] 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

[28] "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. [29] But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. [30] But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

[31] " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. [32] But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' " Luke 15:25-32

Points To Ponder
Thoughts for week of June 22 to 28th

Open It

1. *In what way did you and your siblings compete with each other?
2. How do you feel when other people get rewards greater than they deserve?
3. How do you normally react when you feel you have been treated unfairly?

Explore It

4. What did the younger son ask his father to do? ([15:12-13](#))
5. What did the younger son do after arriving in the distant country? ([15:13](#))
6. How did the younger son live once he was out on his own? ([15:13-20](#))
7. Why did the younger son have to hire himself out for work? ([15:14-15](#))
8. What made the younger son decide to return home? ([15:17-19](#))
9. *How did the father respond to the younger son's return home? ([15:20](#))
10. *Why did the father call for a celebration? ([15:22-24](#))
11. What was wrong with the older brother's reaction to his brother's return? ([15:25-32](#))
12. How did the older son respond to his brother's return and the celebration afterward? ([15:28](#))
13. *What complaints did the older brother bring to his father? ([15:29-30](#))

14. Why did the father want the older brother to be happy?
([15:31-32](#))

Get It

15. What does the forgiving love of the father in this story represent?
16. How have you been like the prodigal son in this story?
17. When have you been like the older brother?
18. From whom do we tend to withhold mercy?
19. What people do you tend to think don't deserve God's mercy?
20. How have you personally experienced the forgiving love of the Father?
21. *What causes us to harbor resentment when mercy is shown to someone else?
22. What should we do when a vile person wants to be forgiven?
23. How should we react when a person comes to know Christ?
24. *How can you show compassion for those who have not believed in Christ?
25. What could you do to thank God for His amazing love for you?
26. What responsibility do you have to your unbelieving friends?
27. What does this parable reveal to you about the Lord's love?

Apply It

28. How can you guard yourself against feeling resentment when God shows mercy to people you think don't deserve it?
29. How can you show acceptance to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it? When?