

The Father's Love

Luke 15:11-24

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³ And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. ¹⁴ Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" ²⁰ So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

When we read this passage we tend to focus on the younger son, who is often referred to as a prodigal. That son is hateful, wasteful, and morally bankrupt. His older brother is self-righteous, callused, and unforgiving. Neither loves the father. Both sons bring shame to the family and destroy relationships. Today, I want us to focus on the father. Jesus specifically shows him in a different light. He does not connect him to the culture of his day but shows what the True Father is like through this example.

The nature of the Father's love is shown by the fact

1. The Father watches for us.

Luke 19:10, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Psalm 86:15

2. The Father had compassion.

Genesis 45:14, 46:29, Acts 20:37, Isaiah 30:18

3. The Father restored his honor.

Zechariah 3:4, Isaiah 43:25, 61:10

4. The Father returned him to full partnership.

Genesis 41:42, 44, Esther 8:2, Daniel 6:17

5. The Father ended the time of mourning.

Luke 15:7, 10