

Loving Father

Luke 15:11-24

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 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.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** 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 servants.' **20** 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.

1. A good Fathers provision

- A. What a good Father provides for His child.
 - a. Sustenance
 - b. Protection
 - c. Education (right from wrong)

- d. Future sustenance
- B. When
 - a. Today
 - b. Tomorrow
 - c. Forever

2. The Fathers response

- A. Hearing and listening
 - a. Contemplation
 - b. Worry?
 - c. Did He think it was a good idea?
- B. Action
 - a. Trying to stop him?
 - b. Willingly gave everything
 - c. Faithfully watched and prayed
 - Safety
 - Well being
 - Return

3. What the Father knew

- A. Wants and needs
 - a. The son wanted to go!
 - b. The Father knew that the son needed to go!
 - This was the only way he could truly see

4. The merciful Father

- A. The sons return
 - a. Excitement and joy
 - b. Not a slave or servant but a son
- B. Restoration
 - a. The best robe(Fathers Robe)
 - b. A ring on his finger
 - Genesis 41:42
 - Esther 8:2

- Wealth, status, often associated with a covenant(marriage).
An outward sign of authority, wealth and covenant relationship. **Identity**

C. Sandals

- a. Slaves were often barefoot-the text implies that he came home barefoot it also states that he had attached himself to someone(became a slave)
- b. Associated with dignity and honor
- c. Prepare for a journey
 - Exodus 12:11 Wear your sandals as you prepare to leave Egypt
 - Ruth 4:7 the way of confirmation in Israel
 - The father confirmed restoration, The kinsman redeemer!

D. Sacrifice and Celebration

- a. Killing the fattened calf
 - Notice they didn't need to fatten it!
 - Usually killed for celebration
 - Isaiah 25:6-9

5. What the Father could have done and what He did

A. Hovered over him

- a. Said no
- b. Prevented him
- c. Searched for him
- d. Sent money

B. He let him

- a. Go
- b. Do
- c. Be in need
- d. Be hungry
- e. suffer

6. The Fathers Gift

A. Inheritance

- a. All the son needed
- b. In the gift the Father gave all
- c. Everything! yesterday, today and forever
 - He knew and gave exactly what the son needed!

B. Mercy

- a. Mercy when the son repented?
- b. When He let the son go and suffer
 - When I can't feel a thing, Have mercy and let me bleed!

7. The Father is God

- A. Our inheritance
 - a. The squandering
- B. What the Father gives
 - a. All of Himself
 - b. All and exactly what we need
- C. The Fathers example!
 - a. Let them go!
 - b. Pray watch and rejoice
 - c. He is faithful!

8. Closing