

# SHOW US THE FATHER

- Our Word for 2022:

Fathers

A  
Atmosphere – Awareness – Anticipation

M  
Mothers

I  
Investment - Involvement - Interaction

L  
Look Around!

Y  
You

- **John 14:1-12** 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!** So why are you asking me to show him to you?"
- **Very different contrast:**
- What is God really like? Some people think the most important question of life is "Do you believe in God?" But a more important question is "What kind of God do you believe in?"
  - Some people picture God as a task master who gets great joy out of disciplining His people when they make a mistake. He has a bunch of rules in force that no one believes they can accomplish so they feel that He is always mad at us and correcting us.
  - Others picture God as a buddy. He will forgive anything no matter what you do or how you act. In the end, all go to heaven because a loving God "would never send anyone to hell"

- **Luke 15:1-2** Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating (receives ESV, welcomes NIV) with such sinful people—even eating with them!
- A key to understanding any Scripture in the Gospels is to know what preceded it.
  - **Luke 4:14-30**
- 3 Groups of people – Tax Collectors, notorious sinners, Pharisees and teachers of the religious law!
  - **A Persistent Problem!**

## It almost if there was an unspoken caste system!

- The Jewish culture was a shame/honor-driven society. Virtually everything done in Jewish culture brought either shame or honor.
- Eating with someone was considered covenantal!
- The Pharisees didn't think Jesus was seeking to live a pure and holy life because of those with whom he associated.
- 2 Questions for us to wrestle with as we look at these 2 parables!
  - **What's the most important thing to you?**
  - **And what's the most important thing to God?**

## Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

- **The Father's Heart:**
  - Both parables highlighted the need to find the lost!
  - Both demonstrated the determination to find the lost!
  - Both expressed the joy and rejoicing when the lost are found!

- Think again of the 3 groups of people:
  - Tax Collectors and Notorious Sinners – Gentiles those who are grafted in!
  - Pharisees – Part of God’s Chosen people
- The Three Parables:
  - First, a lost sheep, the sheep simply wandered off while grazing, a 1% loss, one of 100; most simply understood without much sense of loss.
  - Secondly, the lost coin, the coin was lost by accident, a 10% loss, a loss that could be felt, but managed.
  - Finally, he speaks of the lost son, one who chooses to walk away, a 50% loss, a critical loss.
- Has anyone here ever had your child get lost?

**Luke 15:11-32** To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

# The Younger Son

The young man of our story was most likely experiencing a good life with a wholesome relationship with his father, yet he became dissatisfied. Unlike the first two parables this son makes a conscious decision to walk away! He wanted more; he was hungry for more. More freedom, more opportunity, more space! The farm had gotten too small, too narrow and too restrictive.

- Freedom and Independence
- The unusual and out of order request!
- This certainly would have peaked the curiosity of the Pharisees. How would the Father handle such a disrespectful and even rebellious son?
- **Heart of The Father** - Clearly, the Father in this parable represents God.
  1. **A FATHER WHO REGREST YOUR REBELLION BUT GIVES YOU THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE IT!**
    - vs. 12 – Everything I have is yours

- It seems apparent that we are not talking about lost sinners who have not yet come to Christ, but those who made a confession of faith, but have chosen to walk away!
  - Prodigal can be defined as "wastefully or recklessly extravagant."
- Our Heavenly Father has a message for all of us: I love you very much, I even love you so much that if you choose to walk away, I will let you! I have given you a free will!
  - Just as the father grieved because his son walked out, even so, God the Father grieves when one of His children walk out of fellowship with Him.

## The Younger Son Departs – vs. 13

The scripture doesn't portray how he left but, in my mind, I can see him big grin, (maybe not outwardly, but inwardly) I have my freedom and independence now. He possibly had that strut of confidence as he was leaving.

- vs. 13 -16 All sin promises to please, but ultimately will dominate and enslave you!

- **vs. 17** "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself,
  - Literally, “saw how he was”, broke, hungry, dirty, and probably smelled!
  - God will allow us to reach our P. O. T. D. – Point of Total Desperation
  - “I have sinned against both heaven and you” (Repentance)
  - God isn’t in the business of “Making Deals”
  - Look again at vs. 19 again – not trying to make a deal, no longer a son, just a hired hand!
- **Similar story, very different outcome!**

## **2. THE FATHER WHO RUNS TO MEET YOU WHEN YOU RETURN!**

- “Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him..”  
The Greek verb there indicates he kept on kissing him. We would say he “smothered him with kisses.”

- In the Jewish culture, men wore long robes. In order for a man to run, he had to lift the hem up and hold it high to keep from tripping over it. In doing so, he would bare his legs, which was considered highly undignified.
- Men of respect never ran; it would have been embarrassing. But can't you see this father grabbing handfuls of robe and running toward his son?
- He didn't wait for the son to reach him, he ran to meet the son. He hugged and kissed his rebellious son.
- **And God the Father, the Creator of the Universe will welcome you the same way—just as you are.** Now, this is a revolutionary portrayal of God.
- **Where are you right now?**
- Charles Spurgeon - **The compassion of God is followed by swift movements. He is slow to anger, but He is quick to bless. God comes flying in the greatness of His compassion to help every poor soul that returns to Him.”**
- That's what God is really like. So, we worship a God who regrets our rebellion and runs to us when we return.

### **3. THE FATHER WHO IMMEDIATELY RESTORES YOU WHEN YOU REPENT! vs. 22**

- So much rich imagery:
  - You may see yourself not deserving the “grace of God”. I am no longer worthy to be called a son!
  - God wants to dress you again in the righteousness of Christ.
  - Put the family signet ring back on!
  - Slaves were often barefoot, get the sandals and put them on his feet!
  - Kill the calf we have been fattening!
  - We must celebrate with a feast!!!
  - The one who was dead, has now returned to life. He was lost but now he has been found!!!

**So the party began!**

# The Older Brother (Pharisees)

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

28 "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

31 "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"

- **If the younger son had met the older brother first, he would have probably not gotten to the Father!**
- **We must guard our own hearts when responding to those who have sinned!**
- **The Church often kills its wounded on the battle field!**

- **The Father's Heart:**
- **The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin**
  - Both parables highlighted the need to find the lost!
  - Both demonstrated the determination to find the lost!
  - Both expressed the joy and rejoicing when the lost are found!
- **The Prodigal**
  - The Father Has tremendous love for you, so much that he sent His only Son to die for you!
  - He regrets your rebellion but, gives you the freedom to choose to!
  - He runs to meet you when you repent and return to Him!
  - He immediately restores you!