A Father and His Sons

Russ Bowman · Luke 15:11–32 · Series: **God's Desire for Man**

INTRODUCTION

- I think the reason is because we are made in the image and likeness of God, and that's the way that God feels about us.
- God looks at his creation and mankind in particular in a very special way.
- John chapter 1, we are told in verse 12 that as many as received him, he gave them the right or the authority or the power, it's translated, to become the children of God, the sons of God.

1 God Is a Good and Generous Being

Luke 15:12; Genesis 1:28; Genesis 12

- When you look at this parable, there is a reflection in the Father of the nature of God as a good and generous being.
- He is a being who wants to bless his creation, and particularly the part of his creation made in his image and likeness. He is a God of blessing.
- Well, he is generous. He is caring. He provides for this son.
- The very first thing that God does for mankind after creation in Genesis chapter 1 is it says that God blessed them.
- He wants us to see this picture of this being and understand that what God wants to do is bless us.

2 We Are Prone to Abuse the Blessings

Romans 1:18–31; Deuteronomy 6; Joshua 7

- We see all these blessings, and we're not very good at dealing with them. We are very much prone to abuse the blessings that we have in this life.
- They had all these blessings, but it wasn't enough. There was this one tree.
- Sometimes things are just never enough. Sometimes the blessings that we have are just insufficient in our mind. And we become very selfish.
- Although they knew God, they didn't glorify him as God and were not thankful, but became futile in their hearts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- What happens is we become selfish, and all the blessings that God gives us we use to our destruction.

3 The Father Wants Us to Come Home

Luke 15:17–24; Genesis 3

- What the Bible story is about is a God who's created a man in his image and is blessed him, and the man has messed that up, and the father still wants him to come home.
- You're never going to get better until you admit you're wrong. Until you admit you have a problem. It is the essence of repentance.

- If you don't have a good view of God, you may think that you just can't go home.
- God's looking for you to come home. He's watching for you to come home.
- He doesn't wait for the son to make all of his confession and tell him all the bad things he does. Immediately he welcomes him back and commences celebrating. This is God.
- Yes, he is capable of punishment and he will punish. But that's not what he desires to do. What he desires to do is save.

4 Welcome Home the People Who Come Home

Luke 18:9–14; Luke 9:51–56; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

- We need those who are his children to be willing to welcome home the people who come home.
- That's the problem with the older brother. He's looking down upon his brother because he's made bad choices.
- Are we going to welcome them? Because God's going to welcome them.
- He doesn't say my brother's come home. He says, your son came home.
- He'll welcome them home. Will we?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If you are a Christian, let's make sure that we are with open arms like our father, trying to bring people back home. And let's make sure we're not the older son.**

MY NOTES