The Word

Ken Chapman · Luke 15:11–32 · Series: **God's Desire for Man**

INTRODUCTION

- It hit me the way I was feeling right then, must be the way that God feels. Every time somebody obeys the gospel.
- One of the things that the Bible underscores at the very outset is that God looks at his creation and mankind in particular in a very special way.
- 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; Genesis 12

- There is a reflection in the Father of the nature of God as a good and generous being.
- In the Bible, man is created in the image of God, but in our culture, very often, God is created in the image of man.
- 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.
- 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

Joshua 24; Deuteronomy 30; Romans 1:18

- 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.
- Freedom gives us the choice. And throughout the scriptures, God's constantly telling man choose.
- And so they acted selfishly with the blessings of God and lost his blessings.
- The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth.
- What happens is we become selfish, and all the blessings that God gives us we use to our destruction.
- He ends up in a pig sty wishing he could eat what the hogs were eating. And that's where people end up when they give themselves to sin.

3 The Father Wants Us to Come Home

Luke 15:17; Luke 15:20; 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.
- It is the essence of repentance. It is the concept that says, I have messed up, and if I want things to get better, I need to change.
- 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.
- 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; Luke 9; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10

- 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? Because we're one of these guys or the other.

> 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