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## THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON'S FATHER

Read **Luke 15:11-32 ESV**

### The Departure - **Luke 15:11-12 ESV**

The father lets his son go, loving him enough to risk heartbreak.

### The Father's Vigil - **Luke 15:13-20 ESV**

The father waits with hope, loving more than protecting himself. His heart stays open, longing for his son's return.

- **2 Peter 3:9 ESV** – <sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*
- **Romans 2:4 ESV** – <sup>4</sup> *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

### The Return and Unconditional Welcome - **Luke 15:20-24 ESV**

The father runs to his son, forgiving before a word is spoken. Love, not hurt, leads him. He chooses costly compassion over self-protection.

- **John 15:12-13 ESV** – <sup>12</sup> *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

### The Self-Preserving Older Brother - **Luke 15:25-30 ESV**

Self-preservation, unforgiveness, jealousy and resentment lock the heart. When we cling to pride and let others dictate our emotions, we miss the joy of loving them freely.

- **Hebrews 12:15 ESV** – <sup>15</sup> *See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*

### The Father Redefines Justice with Mercy - **Luke 15:31-32 ESV**

The older son sees love as something to be earned, but the father reveals a love that is free and merciful, celebrating restoration rather than enforcing retribution.

### The Love of Jesus is Our Compass

**Luke 23:34a ESV** – <sup>34a</sup> *And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

- **Philippians 2:3-5a ESV** – <sup>3</sup> *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5a</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*

**We are not called to be hurt BY people, but instead hurt FOR them, longing for their restoration, even when their actions seem to be against us.**

### Two Ways to Be Lost: Both sons are lost.

1. Rebellion - Rejecting the freedom offered through salvation in Christ.
2. Hard-hearted - Claiming to be in Christ, but refusing to die to self, letting Him live through you.

### One Way to Be Found and Be Free:

- Lay down your life with Christ, for the sake of letting Him live through you for others.