

“OUR FATHER?”

Luke 15:11-32 - Pastor Bruce French

What is the Father's love like?

1. The love of the Father is _____. Luke 15:11-19

ASK...

- How has my Father _____ on me?

2. The love of the Father is _____. Luke 15:20-21

ASK...

- What has the Father _____ me of?

3. The love of the Father is _____. Luke 15:22-24

ASK...

- What has the Father _____ to me?

4. The love of the Father is _____.

Luke 15:22-24

ASK...

- How has the Father _____ me?

TAKE HOME TRUTH

The love of the Father is _____. Luke 15:31-32

ASK...

- How has the Father _____ me?

Today's Core Belief:

Personal God: I believe that the infinite and eternal God is involved in and cares about my daily life.
(from Psalm 121:1-2)

Today's Action:

Take time for the next 5 days to contemplate and pray about one stated question per day from the outline.



Deeper Connection Study

Though this story is popularly referred to as the Prodigal Son, the real emphasis is on the Forgiving Father (with a tagline of the Bitter Brother). This parable of Jesus has stood the test of time and its truth and relevance are applicable for us today.

Today's Core Belief discussed: Personal God.

Read Luke 15:11-32

1. How does the youngest son "come to his senses" (v. 17)? What actions does he take (vv. 17-20a)?
2. How does the father respond to the youngest son's return (v. 20b-24)? What does this reveal about his character?
3. What is the complaint of the elder brother (vv. 25-30)? Is he justified in his lament? Why or why not?
4. In what ways do you identify with the younger son and/or the older son? How do you perceive the Father's love?
5. How does a type of the elder brother operate in churches today? How does this affect the churches mission and impact? Consider Robert Stein's question: "Will we be the church of the elder brother or the church of the loving father?"
6. How are repentance and forgiveness matters of the heart? How do you respond to wayward Christians?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for his loving heart & desire to restore us! Pray for people to return to Jesus. Ask God to give you a heart that seeks to reconcile people who have wandered from God.

OUR FATHER?

"LIFE PRINCIPLES IN THE PARABLES"

APRIL 22, 2018 - Luke 15:11-32

It has been said by scholars and sages that how a person sees their heavenly Father is influenced by how he or she sees his or her earthly father. That is, if his earthly father was harsh there is a strong possibility that he will view his heavenly father as harsh. If her earthly father was absent, or aloof, there is an increased chance that she will have a sense that her heavenly father is unavailable and distant.

If there is a theological precedence for this premise it would found in this parable, which is often referred to as "The Prodigal Son." Though the parable gained this title centuries ago, leaving the impression that the parable's focus was on a wayward son, the emphasis is actually on the behavior and nature of the father in the story. In fact, when the larger context is perused it is clear that Jesus crafted this parable to help both wandering younger sons, and self-righteous older sons, understand how their heavenly father viewed them.

How about you, how do you view your heavenly father? Is he fair or unjust? Is he kind or harsh? Is he loving or indifferent? An even more significant question is "How do you think your heavenly Father views you?"

