

20 June

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Father's Day 2021



Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had to explain to a friend or family member the Father heart of God?
2. What was the younger sons request to his father In Luke 15:12? ("**Give me the share of property that is coming to me.**"). (ESV).
3. How did the younger sons' situation change in v.14? (**When he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country and he began to be in need**)
4. What did he decide to do in v.18? (**To return to his father. "I will arise and go to my father..."**).



Let's go deeper

5. How did the father respond when his son returned in v.20? (**His father saw him, felt compassion, ran, embraced and kissed him.**).
6. How did the father restore his son in v.22? (**He put the best robe on his son. The robe is a picture of righteousness; to be in right standing with God.**).
7. What did the father put on his son's hand in v.22? (**A ring. The ring is a picture of authority; signet rings were used to seal letters and documents.**).
8. What did the father put on his son's feet in v.22? (**Sandals or shoes. Sandals are a picture of sonship; only sons wore sandals, servants walked barefoot**).



Let's apply this

9. God the Father invites you to return to Him today?

**Matthew 11:27 – 30:** All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- **God is love, and He invites you to return to Him, to restore your relationship with Him, He will forgive all your sins because of Jesus.**

SUMMARY:

- **The heart of God, our Father**

**Luke 15:11 – 16;** The story of the prodigal son, (he took half of his father's possessions, left his father's home, wasted all his inheritance, how he fell in hard times...) Far country = far from God. Always famine in the far country, we were made for God, without His presence there is famine.

**v.17 – 19:** The son came to himself. Realised what he did and the position he was in. He decided to go back to his father. To repent of his behaviour and to return - even if it was in the lowly position of a servant.

**v.20;** And he arose and came to his father (the son returned to the father). Old Testament blessing of returning to God. (See Deuteronomy 30:1; Isaiah 55:6). The Father was...looking...searching...hoping...longing...yearning...that the son would one day return. When He was still far off, his father saw him. There is a longing in the heart of God, for His children. (See John 3:16; Acts 2:37; Ephesians 2:4; 13 – 18 and Romans 5:8).

The father saw him and had compassion...

**Saw** = To know, be aware, behold, consider, have knowledge, look on, perceive, be sure, understand. **Compassion** = Not sympathy, not empathy (Divine love in action). When Jesus and the Father look at us, He knows, it moves Him. (See Matthew 9:36; Genesis 33:4; Genesis 45:14; Genesis 46:29 and Acts 20:37).

**v.21;** The son repents. (See Psalm 51:4; Romans 2:4; 1 John 1:8 – 9; 2:1 – 2).

**v.22;** The father forgives. He did not give him time to say that he wants to be a servant. There was an instant response to the slightest indication of repentance. Love was quicker than words. (See Psalm 86:5; Psalm 103:10 – 13; Micah 7:18 – 19).

**v.22: The Father restores the relationship, and his position as a son.**

**Robe** - Righteousness (right standing with God). (See Isaiah 61:10; Romans 3:21; 13:14; Galatians 3:26 and Ephesians 4:22).

**Ring** – Authority (signet ring – to seal official letters and documents with.). (See Genesis 41:14 and Ephesians 1:13).

**Sandals** – Sonship (slaves walked barefoot). (See Galatians 4:6 and Romans 8:14).

**Fatted calf** – Fellowship, special occasion. (See Luke 15:7 and 10).

**v.24;** Reason for the party. Being far from our Father is death and close to Him is life

**Matthew 11:28 – The invitation of God the Father and Jesus is to return to God.**