

January 12, 2020

The Father's Love

Luke 15:11-24 11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

I have to admit that this parable, told by Jesus to His disciples, is my very favorite in all of God's Word. Every time I read it, I begin to weep, for there is no clearer passage that shows the love that the Father has for us. Jesus was the Master of parables because He is the Master. This shows us the total, absolute, unconditional love that God has for His children.

This is the same love that He has for you! We are all like that son. We've chosen to walk our own path because of the sinfulness and selfishness in our lives. We want what we want when we want it. There is no thought for others. There wasn't even a please uttered from his lips; just a demand.

And yet, the Father acted in every way, full of love. He never gave up on him. He looked for him every day! He ran to him. He kissed him. He held him. He proclaimed his son was dead but is alive again! And that is what we are....dearly loved. 1 John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Dear Lord, thank you for never giving up on me. Thank you for always looking for me and loving me and lavishing your love on me. Help me to do the same to others, in Jesus Name, Amen