

The Way of the Father

Luke 15

Point 1 – The Way of the Father is Compassion

- **Scripture:** Luke 15:3–7; John 10:11; Matthew 9:36
- Jesus tells the story of the shepherd leaving ninety-nine sheep to find the one. No ordinary shepherd would take that risk, but God’s compassion is radical.
- The Father doesn’t scold the sheep when He finds it — He lifts it onto His shoulders and carries it home with joy.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:11).

Reflection Questions:

1. Who are the people I’m tempted to “write off” or dismiss as too far gone?
2. Do I see struggling believers with compassion, or do I roll my eyes and grumble like the Pharisees?
3. How would my relationships change if I carried the Father’s compassion into them?

Notes:

Point 2 – The Way of the Father is Persistence

- **Scripture:** Luke 15:8–10; Luke 19:10; Revelation 3:20
- The woman searches for her lost coin until she finds it. One coin might not sound like much, but in that culture it could be part of a dowry — deeply valuable.
- God’s pursuit is not casual; it’s relentless. Jesus says, “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).
- God keeps seeking, knocking, and drawing people to Himself.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do I persist in prayer for lost friends, family, or neighbors, or do I give up too quickly?
2. Do I keep investing in messy relationships, or do I withdraw when it's difficult?
3. Where is God asking me to show persistence like His?

Notes:**Point 3 – The Way of the Father is Grace**

- **Scripture:** Luke 15:11–32; Psalm 40:2; Romans 5:8
- The parable of the prodigal son reveals grace for both the rebel and the rule-keeper.
- **Grace for the rebel:** No pit is too deep for the Father's mercy (Psalm 40:2).
- **Grace in the Father's welcome:** He runs to the son, restores his honor, identity, and joy — no probation, only full restoration (Romans 5:8).
- **Grace for the resentful:** The older brother stayed home but his heart was far away. The Father pleads with him too.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do I ever believe I've sinned too much to truly belong in God's family again?
2. Am I waiting to "clean myself up" before coming to God — or am I letting Him meet me in the mess?
3. Do I struggle with resentment like the older brother, keeping score of what I think God owes me?

Notes:

Point 4 – The Way of the Father is Celebration

- **Scripture:** Luke 15:6, 9, 24; Zephaniah 3:17
- Every story in Luke 15 ends with rejoicing: “Rejoice with me!” Heaven throws a party when the lost are found.
- The older brother stood outside the party in bitterness. The Father pleads: “We had to celebrate.”
- Celebration is not just relief — it’s God’s delight in His children (Zephaniah 3:17).

Reflection Questions:

1. Do I truly celebrate when prodigals come home, or do I doubt their sincerity?
2. Do I rejoice when God blesses others, or do I feel overlooked and bitter?
3. How can our church reflect the Father’s joy every time God restores someone?

Notes:

Closing Reflection & Response

- We’ve seen the way of the Father: **compassion, persistence, grace, and celebration.**
- The story of Luke 15 forces us to ask: *Where do I find myself?*
 - Some of us are the younger son — we’ve run, rebelled, and ended up in a pit. But the Father runs to us with grace and restores us fully.
 - Some of us are the older son — we’ve stayed in the house, done the right things, but our hearts are cold, resentful, and bitter. The Father comes out to us too, pleading with us to share His joy.
 - Some of us are simply stuck — we’ve lost sight of the mission, standing by while the Father calls us to seek the lost.

- **The Invitation:**

- Will you seek the Father with all your heart? (Jeremiah 29:13)
- Will you draw near to Him and let Him draw near to you? (James 4:8)
- Will you step into the Father's joy instead of standing outside with arms crossed?

- **The Call:**

- Respond to His love. Don't stay in rebellion.
- Don't stay in resentment.
- Don't stay outside the celebration.
- Come into the Father's joy, into His grace, and into His mission.

Response Space:

- What is God revealing about your heart today? _____
- How is He inviting you to move closer to Him? _____
- What step will you take to reflect the Father's compassion, persistence, grace, and celebration in your life? _____