

AN EXAMPLE OF A GODLY MAN

Luke 15:11-32

- The Father in the story of the prodigal son is representative of our Heavenly Father.

WE NEED GODLY MEN WHO OFFER COMPASSION

- *“So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion.”* (Luke 15:20)
- **Becoming more like Jesus involves our commitment to seeing people from all walks of life, and through all kinds of failures, with compassion.**
- *“When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.”* (Matthew 9:36)
- **Compassion is not excusing sin; it is seeing people through the lens of God's mercy rather than through the lens of their mistakes.**

WE NEED GODLY MEN WHO SHOW AFFECTION

- *“He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.”* (Luke 15:21)
- **We cannot let culture define what “manliness” is when God has given us the blueprint for manhood.**
- *“Then he and Jonathan kissed each other and wept with each other, though David wept more.”* (1 Samuel 20:41)
- **“Manning up” God's way is the ability to overcome ego and cultural stereotypes to show a godly affection to our children, and others when needed.**
- **Biblical masculinity is not the absence of tenderness; it is the strength to express love without fear of what others may think.**

WE NEED GODLY MEN WHO WALK IN GRACE

- *“But the father told his servants, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast, 24 because this son of mine*

was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.” (Luke 15:22-24)

- **A godly man doesn't ask, “What does this person deserve?” He asks, “How has God treated me when I needed grace?”**
- **A godly man understands that the same grace that rescued him is the grace he must extend to others, even when they don't deserve it.**
- **When grace governs our homes, failure becomes a place of restoration rather than a permanent label of condemnation.**

WE NEED GODLY MEN WHO MODEL FORGIVENESS

- *“‘Son,’ he said to him, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”* (Luke 15:31-32)
- **Forgiveness does not erase the past, but it refuses to allow the past to control the future.**
- **The father celebrated a restored relationship instead of rehearsing old failures; forgiveness chooses redemption over resentment.**

GOD IS THE HEAVENLY FATHER WHO ALWAYS OFFERS COMPASSION, AFFECTION, GRACE, AND FORGIVENESS

- *“The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, 7 maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”* (Exodus 34:5-7)
- *“As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.”* (Psalm 103:13)
- *“See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are!”* (1 John 3:1)
- *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:38-39)

- Every good quality we admire in the father of Luke 15 is simply a reflection of the perfect character of our Heavenly Father.
- God's love for His children is not based on their performance but on His character; when we fail, His compassion remains, His grace remains, and His invitation to return remains.
- The gospel is the story of a Father who runs toward sinners, embraces the repentant, restores the broken, and welcomes them home through Jesus Christ.

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- According to Luke 15:20, what actions did the father take when he saw his son returning home?
- What gifts and actions did the father provide for the younger son in verses 22-24, and what do they reveal about the father's attitude toward him?
- How did the older brother respond to the father's celebration in verses 28-30?
- In verse 32, what reason did the father give for celebrating instead of condemning his younger son?

Understanding

- Why do you think compassion is often difficult to show toward people who have hurt us, disappointed us, or made poor choices?
- Why do people often distance themselves from those who are struggling? Is there someone in your life who may need compassion rather than criticism right now?
- How has your upbringing shaped the way you give and receive affection?
- What are some practical ways we can express Christlike love and encouragement to family members, friends, or fellow believers this week?
- Why is grace sometimes difficult to extend to others? Is there someone you need to extend grace to in your life right now?
- How does remembering God's grace toward us help us extend grace to others?
- What are some common obstacles that keep people from forgiving others?
- Which aspect of God's character, His compassion, affection, grace, or forgiveness, do you most need to experience personally right now? (Pray for one another about these needs)

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

****CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK****