

The Revelation of God as Father

Saturday, 2 May 2026 8:32 AM

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I. Introduction

1. A Main Theme of the BibleA Father and His Family

- Jesus mission
- [Mat 11:27](#) *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**.*
- Stories:
 - Taiwan.....Abandoned.....Encounter - Direct.....Holy Spirit
 - Indonesia....Abused and defiled....Encounter- Indirect....A Father's Hug
- God desires to reveal Himself as our Father
 - [Exo 4:22](#) *Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.*
[Exo 4:23](#) *So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me.*
 - [Psa 27:10](#) *When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.*

2. The Importance of Our Heart

- [Pro 4:23](#) *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*
 - We see ourself God, Ourself, people, relationships and life not just through our eyes but **through the filter of our Heart and its core beliefs**
- **We view God as Father through our experiences of father and authority figures**
 - **Rejection or abandonment** by a Father alters our ability to feel accepted
 - **Abuse** by a Father alters our ability to feel safe
 - **Silence** by a Father affects our ability to feel valued
 - **Anger or bitterness** towards a Father leads to resistance to knowing God as Father and cycles of conflict in all relationships

3. Jesus came to reveal what God is truly like a Father

- [Jhn 14:8](#) *Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*
- [Jhn 14:9](#) *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*
- [Jhn 14:10](#) *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

4. What is a Father?

- Ab....Source, origin
- Ox + Tent...the leader who carries responsibility and authority for leading and building the house
- What is a Son?
 - Ben...Builder. One who builds his Father's House and represents him
 - Seed + House...the seed or descendent that builds the house and carries the Fathers values and purpose
- What is a Daughter?
 - Bath....from same root.... banah "To Build"
 - Both sons and daughters are builders of the Fathers House and Legacy
 - Tent +Cross.....the covenant one who strengthens and preserves the house through her presence and values

II. How Jesus Revealed the Father

- **Jesus is the Express Image of the Father (Heb.1:3)**

- [Col 1:15](#) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
- **He Revealed what Father God is Like**
 1. **By His Lifestyle: How He lived life with Identity and Purpose**
Eg Jn.17:6
Eg. Jn.14:9
 2. **By the Way He Treated People**
Eg. Mk.1:40-41
 3. **By What He Taught about Father God**
Eg. Lk.15:
 4. **By Demonstrating the Power of His Father**
Matt.14:14
 5. **By Giving his Life on The Cross to Save Us**
Jn.3:16
- [Mat 11:27](#) 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.**

III. **The Story of the Prodigal Son**

1. **How Jesus Treated People**
 - [Luk 15:1](#) Then all the **tax collectors and the sinners** drew near to Him to hear Him.
[Luk 15:2](#) And the **Pharisees and scribes complained**, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."
[Luk 15:3](#) So He spoke this **parable** to them
 - **Jesus focus was constantly on His Mission**
 - His Mission was the purpose He lived for
 - [Luk 19:10](#) for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - Jesus came to represent His Father
 - He came to find people that were lost and to save them
 - **The Tax Collector's and Sinners**
 - They were the lowest people in society
 - Tax collectors were considered traitors and hated and rejected
 - Sinners were despised by religious people
 - There were rejected and despised but founder for spirit reality
 - They were Hungry to hear about God
 - **The Pharisees and Scribes**
 - There were religious people. Religious leaders
 - The Pharisees were **hypocrites**. They made laws but didn't keep them
 - The Scribes were **legalists**. They burdened people with rules
 - They complained against Jesus and constantly accused Him
 - Complained....talked badly about Him and were angry and offended
 - **Jesus revealed the Father by Valuing people**
 - He welcomed people who society rejected
 - He ate with them...a sign of honour of the people
 - **He gave the people what they did not earn**...Honour and value and time with them
2. **Jesus Revealed the Father by what he Taught them**
 - **Jesus taught three parables, stories with a spiritual and personal revelation**
 - **In each story something of great value is lost**
 - Lost Sheep....The Shepherd seeks the lost sheep
 - Lost Coin.....The Woman searches for the Lost Coin
 - Lost SonsThe Father awaits the Lost Sons return
 - The two Lost sons represented the people interacting with Him
 - **The Story of the Prodigal Son**
[Luk. 15:11](#) Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.
[Luk 15:12](#) And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

[Luk 15:13](#) And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

[Luk 15:14](#) But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

[Luk 15:15](#) Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

[Luk 15:16](#) And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

[Luk 15:17](#) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

[Luk 15:18](#) I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

[Luk 15:19](#) and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

[Luk 15:20](#) "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

[Luk 15:21](#) And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

[Luk 15:22](#) "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

[Luk 15:23](#) And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;

[Luk 15:24](#) for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

o Meaning of Father

o The Failure of the Younger Son

1. The Responsibilities of a Son

- Relationship: Intimacy
- Responsibility: Assignment
- Representation: Speak and Act on his behalf

2. He Dishonoured His Father

- He refused to be a son
 - A Son ... "Ben"mean builder of the Fathers House
 - He demanded freedom to do what he wanted and felt like doing
 - He wanted to live with **no restraint....lawless**
 - He demanded his inheritance before his father died

3. He Publicly brought Shame to his Father

- He sold the land...the generational inheritance
 - He used his Father for his own benefit
 - He abandoned his father and family to go to a far land
 - He wasted all his inheritance with wild living
- People used him and abandoned exactly as he had used his father
 - His relationships were not genuine. They were transactional
 - He suffered great lack and no one cared about him
- He joined himself to a Pig Farmer
 - He became Attached or bonded to and dependent upon the Pig Farmer
 - He defiled himself feeding pigs and fighting with them for the pig food
 - He bought public shame and dishonour to the father and the father's name
 - Without a Father love we attache to things that defile us

4. He came to His senses and decided to return to His Father

- Why?
- What Changed Him?
 - **He remembered the generosity of his Father**
 - [Luk 15:17](#) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
 - [Luk 15:18](#) I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
 - [Luk 15:19](#) and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

5. He Repented

- He changed from "Give me"
 - Entitlement and Demanding
 - Entitlement and demands to be served destroy relationships and purpose and success
- He Changed to "Make me like one of your hired servants"
 - Greatness and success in life comes from a Servant Heart
 - Serving is the heart and action of a Son
 - Jesus modeled serving

III. The Revelation of Father God

1. The Passage:

- o [Luk 15:20](#) "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.
[Luk 15:21](#) And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- [Luk 15:22](#) "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'
- [Luk 15:23](#) And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;
- [Luk 15:24](#) for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

2. What Jesus revealed About Father God

1. **Father God loves us and gives us Freedom to Choose**

- God is not a controller. He is a God of Love
- Love frees people to make choices with your life
- God also frees you to experience consequences of your choices

2. **Father God constantly longs for our Return to Him**

- When He was still a long way off
- He was looking for His lost son
- He longed for the relationship to be restored
- God is a Father. He longs for our return and restoration

3. **Father God Sees us...sees our condition**

- His Father saw him
- God sees us exactly how we are.
- He sees our heart and the pain and suffering
- He is The Lord who sees me

4. **Father God is Full of Compassion not Anger and Rejection**

- He had compassion upon him
- What is Compassion?
- Compassion moves people to action

5. **Father God will draw near to all who draw near to Him**

- He ran to him
- No Father or Older person would run like that
- Why did Father run?
- He desired to protect him from further rejection and restore him

6. **Father God is Loving and Affectionate**

- He fell on his neck and kissed him
- Father God is not distant and remote. He is expressive and affectionate
- He longs for connection with us
- His touch can be experienced

7. **Father Restores us into Relationship**

- [Luk 15:22](#) "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'
- 1. **The Best Robe.....**
 - Robe= Cleansing and Covering from the filth
- 2. **The Ring.....**
 - Ring = Authority as a Son
- 3. **The Shoes**
 - Shoes = Standing as a Son of the House

8. **Father God celebrates our Restoration not our Failure or Punishment**

- [Luk 15:23](#) And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;
- [Luk 15:24](#) for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.
- God celebrates...He is full of Joy. He is expressive
- The father threw a party to celebrate
- God expects us to celebrate with Him when someone is restored to relationship with Him

3. What about the Elder Brother?

1. **He also dishonoured his Father publicly**

- He refused to come in to the Father's Celebration

- He refused to do his eldest son duties, stand with his Father to welcome guests
- He refused to value what the Father valued
- He never really knew his Father

2. He Also was a Lost Son.

- He acted like an **Orphan** focussed on himself
- He Served in the field but was resentful of serving
- He was proud of his performance and obedience
- His Identity was in being the Good Son
- His Father's generosity exposed his hidden anger
- He despised both his brother and his Father

I. Response

1. Salvation Altar Call

- [Jhn 1:12](#) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

2. Deliverance from Rejection and Defilement

- **Rejection by Father or Mother**
- **Rejection by Family or so called friends**
- **Betrayal, Abuse or Bullying by people**
- **Defilement...pornography, addictions, substitutes**
- **Loneliness and depression**

How God's Nature is Revealed

○ Moses Encounter:

- [Exo 34:6](#) *And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,*
- [Exo 34:7](#) *keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."*
 - **The Lord God.....The Father abounds in Resources**
 - **Merciful.....The Father shows Compassion on His Son**
 - **Gracious.....The Father allows His Son Freedom to choose**
 - **Longsuffering The Father Patiently awaits His Sons return**
 - **Abounding in Goodness and Truth..... The Father Restores the Son-garment, ring, shoes**
 - **Showing Mercy..... The Father welcomes the community to His Party**
 - **Forgiving..... The Father is ready to forgive both sons**

