

Thanks, Dad
(Father's Day 2018)
Luke 15:11-32



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Preachers sometimes praise mothers on Mother's Day for the special place they have in our lives, and then beat up fathers on Father's Day for not being better fathers. But today we pay tribute to fathers by studying the father of the prodigal son in Luke 15. He was a father who did a lot of things right—in fact, he was a perfect father since he represents God. Your father wasn't perfect, but he probably exhibited some of the same qualities as the father in Jesus' parable—characteristics you should be thanking your father for today.

I. He provided for the basic _____ of his family. (vv. 22-23)

- A. The father of the prodigal son was fairly _____.
- B. The first responsibility of a father is to provide _____, _____ and _____ for his family. (1 Tim. 5:8)
- C. It is extremely healthy for parents to _____ love to their children, but it's more important that they _____ it.

II. He was generous beyond what was _____. (vv. 11-12)

- A. It was highly _____ for a father to be so generous.
- B. Your father probably didn't give you your inheritance in advance, but chances are he went far _____ what was reasonable providing for your basic needs.
 - 1. There are many child-related expenses that are not _____, but most fathers give continuously.
 - 2. Many dads are generous with not just money, but with _____ and attention as well.

III. He gave his son _____ when it was appropriate. (v. 13)

- A. This father _____ his son when it was time to do so.

B. One of the most _____ tasks for a father is to release his child.

C. There are four building-block periods parents pass through with their children:

- 1.. _____—birth through age 5
- 2. _____—ages 6-12
- 3. _____—ages 13-19
- 4. _____—20 and up

IV. He was willing to _____ a serious offense and move on. (vv. 14-24)

- A. This father was so _____, but typical of most dads.
- B. Some of you have been _____ a lot by your dad.

V. He loved his sons _____ even though he treated them _____. (vv. 25-28)

- A. These two sons were very _____.
- B. Maybe you should be _____ for a perceptive father who was wise enough to treat each child differently while loving each _____.
- C. Here are some ways you can show _____:
 - 1. Attend _____ with him.
 - 2. Let him know you care and that you are _____ of him.
 - 3. Write him a _____ card.
 - 4. Spend _____ with him.
 - 5. Get along with your _____ and _____.
- D. If your father is a Christian, the best way you can say thanks is by following in his _____, honoring his _____ and assuring your dad you are going to be with him in _____ some day.