

You're Too Far Gone

Jesus Never Said That

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OPENING QUESTION

“If you had to describe your current faith journey as a place (home, far country, front porch, party, field, etc.), what place would you choose and why?”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Main Reading:

Luke 15:11-32

Additional Reading:

John 11:25

Ephesians 2:8-10

KEY TAKE AWAYS

The Father loves you enough to let you leave.

God doesn't control, manipulate, or coerce us; He respects our freedom, even when we choose badly, because real love allows a choice.

The Father runs before you can even say a word.

The moment we turn back toward God, He meets us with compassion, not condemnation, restoring us before we can clean ourselves up or explain ourselves.

The Father comes outside for both sons.

Whether we're “far away” in obvious sin or “close” but hard-hearted and resentful, God pursues us personally and invites us into the joy of relationship with Him.

QUESTIONS

1. The younger son's story shows someone who ran far from the Father; the older son's story shows someone who stayed close but felt distant.
 - a. In this season of your life, which of those feels closer to your experience, and what makes you say that?

2. “The Father loves you enough to let you leave.”
 - a. How have you seen God allow you (or people you know) to make choices and then use that journey to draw you back to Him?
3. “Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Romans 5).
 - a. Is there an area of your life where it’s hard to believe that grace is actually greater than your mistakes? What makes that hard to accept?
4. The father went out to both sons and invited them into the celebration.
 - a. What might “coming into the house” (fully receiving the Father’s love and grace) look like for you this week in a practical way?

PRACTICE

Coming Home (Prayer & Response)

Quiet Reflection:

- Everyone sit quietly with the passage (Luke 15:11–32) open.
- Ask the Holy Spirit:
 - “Which son am I most like right now—the younger or the older?”
 - “Where have I ‘gone to the far country’ or stayed ‘outside the house’ in my heart?”
 - “What do I *think* You (Father) are saying to me when I come home?”

Jot down a phrase or a few words that come to mind—no long journaling needed, just headlines.

Younger & Older Sons:

‘Younger son’ energy (I feel far, ashamed, like I’ve blown it, or like I’m “too much of a mess”).

‘Older son’ energy (I’ve been around church, I do the right things, but I feel unseen, resentful, or distant in my heart).”

Everyone briefly share:

Which son better describes how they feel right now and why (in simple, safe language—no pressure for deep details).

One sentence of what they think the Father *might* be saying to them.

Praying Over One Another:

Take turns praying brief, simple blessings over each other.

Suggested prayer pattern (15–30 seconds per person):

“Father, thank You that [Name] is not too far gone and not forgotten.

Thank You that You see them ‘a long way off’ and run toward them.

Let them feel Your embrace this week.

Remind them that everything You have is theirs in Jesus. Amen.”

You can also invite anyone comfortable to pray spontaneously, but keep it focused on:

Being seen

Being welcomed

Being loved, not lectured

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that You run toward us with compassion, whether we feel like the younger son or the older son. Help us to truly believe that we are never too far gone and never unseen by You. Fill us with Your Spirit this week so we can live as Your loved sons and daughters and invite others “inside the house” of Your grace.