

# LUKE 15:11–32

## GETTING ANGRY WHEN GOD GETS HAPPY

### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### BIG IDEA

*Both rebellion and religion can distance us from the Father's heart, but the Father runs toward both with costly, unexpected love.*

#### THE PRODIGAL'S DECISIONS — SELFISH, SHORT-SIGHTED, STUBBORN (Luke 15:11-16)

- What do the younger son's actions show about how he viewed his father and his own independence? (e.g. Proverbs 14:12)
- In what ways do people today still chase freedom apart from God, only to find themselves empty? (e.g. Romans 1:21-25; James 1:14-15)

#### THE FATHER'S HEART — UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, UNENDING PATIENCE, UNRESERVED FORGIVENESS (Luke 15:17-24)

- How does the father's response surprise us compared to what the son expected? (e.g. Psalm 103:8-14)
- Why is it often easier to try to earn forgiveness than to simply receive it (e.g. Ephesians 2:8-9), and what does the father's joyful welcome teach us about the heart of God toward repentant sinners? (e.g. Romans 5:8)

#### THE OLDER BROTHER — ENTITLED AND ANGRY (Luke 15:25-30)

- What do the older brother's words reveal about his heart toward both his father and his brother?
- How can religious pride or comparison rob us of joy when God shows grace to someone else? (e.g. Luke 18:9-14)

#### THE FATHER'S PURSUIT — HE COMES OUT TO BOTH SONS (Luke 15:20, 28)

- Why is it significant that the father goes out to meet both sons instead of waiting for them to come to him? (e.g. Luke 19:10)
- How have you seen God pursue you in seasons when you were far from Him, whether in rebellion or resentment?

#### THE TRUE PRODIGAL — THE FATHER'S COSTLY LOVE (Luke 15:31-32)

- Why might it be more accurate to call this the story of a prodigal father rather than a prodigal son? (e.g. John 3:16)
- How should the father's extravagant generosity shape the way we extend grace to others? (e.g. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

#### CLOSING REFLECTIONS

- When the Father comes to you, whether to forgive your failure or confront your pride, will you meet Him with repentance and joy, or with resentment and distance?