

THE PRODIGAL GOD  
And Kissed Him  
Luke 15:11-24  
Week 5 May 17, 2020  
Pastor Mike Popovich

We are learning from this parable how the grace of God creates a unique Christian community.

What kind of community would we be if we were really good at forgiving each other?

### **I. FORGIVENESS IS ASSERTIVE**

The Father does not make the son ask. The Father's love and forgiveness is assertive and aggressive. It is without condition of repentance.

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*  
Mark 11:25 NIV

It is always your move.

### **II. FORGIVENESS IS SACRIFICIAL**

1. The son wronged the Father financially.
2. The son disgraced His Father.

Jesus is teaching us about how God's forgiveness works.

#### **A. The Father Runs**

#### **B. The Father does not let the son pay back the debt**

Forgiveness is always a form of suffering.  
Forgiveness is giving up your right to get even.

### **III. FORGIVENESS IS POWERED FROM INSIDE**

Where does that power come from?

*He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*  
John 1:11 NIV

If you see what Jesus has done for you, that gives you what you need to forgive. He is the power in you to forgive.

Two things you need inside if you are going to absorb the debt.

1. You have to resist being superior.
2. You have to release them from liability.

### **IV. FORGIVENESS LEADS TO RESURRECTION**

What kind of community would we be if we all practiced this gospel level of forgiveness?

1. Reconciliation and repair of relationships would happen all the time.
2. We must be a persuasive community not resentful and belittling.
3. A community where we let people be free of their past.