

God's Idea of a Good Father

Text: Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

¹¹Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So, he divided his property between them.

¹³"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹"'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Introduction

Someone wrote, "In love and mercy, God is generous with grace. He extends his love with the hand of forgiveness to people though many reject Him. God's grace pursues. His forgiveness reconciles. His love is so pure that Jesus resorts to parables to describe it."

Note the *attributes* of this father and what he gives to his child.

I. FREEDOM to Make Mistakes.

A. Freedom to make one's own choices is the first step in learning from mistakes.

B. Freedom to choose is God's way of naturally teaching us.

II. FORGIVENESS with a Second Chance.

A. Forgiveness, by definition, is never earned.

B. Forgiveness is an undeserved gift.

III. FAVOR. He Bestows Unmerited Favor.

A. Favor is rooted in love.

B. Favor is rooted in the way we choose to see another.

Conclusion

Timothy Keller wrote a book entitled, “The Prodigal God.” There Keller points out that God recklessly lavishes his grace and forgiveness on us, more than we ever deserve. He says, “God’s reckless grace is our greatest hope.”

Source

Adapted from: Kerry Haynes - <https://sermoncentral.com/sermons/parable-of-the-perfect-father-kerry-haynes-sermon-on-forgiveness-209720?ref=SermonSerps>