

# God is...FATHER!

**KEY QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF TODAY:**  
**Who do you see yourself as in this story?**  
**Young son? Older son? Crowd? Father?**  
**Why so? What is the REMEDY?**



## **KEY POINT:**

God is Father! He **waits**,  
**looks**, and **yearns** for His  
lost children to come  
home!

## **Unforgettable Tale (v.11-32)**

—Longest parable & most dramatic!  
—Jesus had to continue again.  
—Mix of corrupt tax collector's,  
down and out sinners, & hyper reli-  
gious Pharisees and Scribes with  
deep rooted cultural attitudes, ritu-  
als, habits, & inflexibility

## **The Youngest Son (v.12-19)**

—Prideful, selfish, did not intend to  
return, sought after freedom as he  
saw it  
—No self-control or self-discipline  
—Rock bottom & came to his senses  
—**Represents** typical sinners who  
come to repentance

## **The Father (v.20-24)**

—Patience, love, generosity, and  
run's to meet us when he sees us  
returning.  
—Kiss, Best Robe, Ring, Sandals,  
Fattened Calf, and Huge Celebration  
—Finds joy in true repentance!  
—**Represents** our Father in Heaven!

## **The Oldest Brother (v.25-32)**

—Cold, indifferent, angry, resentful  
—Sense of entitlement  
—Stunned, outraged, confused  
—Hypocrites to the full degree  
—Lack of Repentance  
—Heart problem  
—**Representation** of the same  
attitude of the Pharisees and Scribes

## **Principles & Application**

- \* **Remedy = True Repentance**
- \* **No one is free from repentance**
- \* **God meets you halfway.**
- \* **God runs and restores!**
- \* **God looks at the heart.**
- \* **God knows & always wins!**
- \* **He treats us as if we never left.**

## **Scripture References:**

Luke 15: 11-32 (see other side)  
Prov. 3:5-6, 1 John 1:9, Romans 8:1-2,  
Romans 8:38-39, 2 Pet. 3:9, Matt. 3:2

# Now What?

6/19/11 →

# Key Bible Passage Today

**Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)**

- <sup>11</sup> **Jesus continued:** "There was a man who had two sons.  
<sup>12</sup> The **younger one** said to his father, '**Father**, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.  
<sup>13</sup> "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**.  
<sup>14</sup> After he had **spent everything**, there was a **severe famine** in that whole country, and **he began to be in need**.  
<sup>15</sup> So he went and **hired himself out** to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.  
<sup>16</sup> He **longed to fill his stomach with the pods** that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.  
<sup>17</sup> "When **he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!  
<sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
<sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'  
<sup>20</sup> **So 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**.  
<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'  
<sup>22</sup> "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.  
<sup>23</sup> Bring the **fattened calf** and kill it. Let's have a feast and **celebrate**.  
<sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was **lost and is found!** So they began to celebrate.  
<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the **older son** was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.  
<sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.  
<sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'  
<sup>28</sup> "The **older brother became angry and refused** to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.  
<sup>29</sup> But 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.  
<sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"  
<sup>31</sup> "'**My son,**' the father said, '**you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.**  
<sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; **he was lost and is found.**"