



THE PARABLE OF THE LOVING FATHER

Pastor Matt McGill | 6/18/2023 | Pacific Coast Church

Luke 15:11-31

1. Be **APPROACHABLE**.

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. (Luke 15:11-12)

To answer before listening—that is folly and shame. (Proverbs 18:13; See also James 1:9)

2. Be **CHARITABLE**.

When [the younger son] 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! I will set out and go back to my father.'" (Luke 15:17-18)

3. Be **COMPASSIONATE**.

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. (Luke 15:20)

"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:24)

4. Be **FLEXIBLE**.

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. (Luke 15:28)

Four Tests

#1: Am I **SAFE**?

#2: Am I **GENEROUS**?

#3: Am I **CARING**?

#4: Am I **WISE**?

DAILY DEVOTIONS: questions for reflection and discussion

These are provided for your personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real-life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's Word and last Sunday's message. You can also download this tool at www.pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY: Review

> Read Luke 15:11-31. In this passage, we see four qualities of a loving father: Being approachable, charitable, compassionate, and flexible. As you consider your life, what do you "need most" from God right now, and why?

> Read Jeremiah 31:7-9. In what ways is God like a father to his people?

> Four "tests" were mentioned at the end of the message: Am I safe? Am I generous? Am I caring? Am I wise? Which of these tests do you pass with flying colors? Why? Which of these tests represents a growth area for you? What can you do differently this week?

TUESDAY: Being Approachable

> Read Romans 12:14-21. The character qualities listed in this passage are fundamental for healthy relationships. Pick one and consider how it is displayed in your life. Where is one area mentioned in this Scripture where you need to grow?

> Read Proverbs 18:19. Respond to the following statement: It's difficult to have a positive impact on a person who offends you—as your offense increases, your chances for influence decrease.

> Read Philippians 4:5. Gentle people are attractive! When is it most difficult to be gentle with others? Under what circumstances do you typically have a "short fuse?"

WEDNESDAY: Being Charitable

> Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-8. Based on this passage, write a single-sentence definition of generosity.

> Describe a time when a person was extravagantly generous with you. How would the people who know you best describe your generosity?

> Read Ecclesiastes 5:13. When a person lacks generosity, how does this harm them?

THURSDAY: Being Compassionate

> Read Psalm 103:8-14. In this passage, how does God express his compassion? In your opinion, what is the connection between God as our creator and his compassion?

> Read Matthew 9:36. What moved Jesus to compassion? How can this kind of Christlike compassion show up in your life next week?

FRIDAY: Being Flexible

Reminder: In last Sunday's message, flexibility was shown to be an expression of wisdom. We can't treat every situation the same! We must be flexible. Sometimes we must "wait" for others to come to us. At other times, we must "go" to them and plead our case.

> Read Proverbs 26:4-5. How can we know which is wiser: to correct a fool or be silent?

> Read Job 34:1-4. In this passage, discernment is compared to tasting food and testing words. In your experience, what has been the best way for you to discern what is right?

SATURDAY: Catch-Up Day!

> Catch-up day! No new reading! no new questions!
> If you are all caught up, first, WAY TO GO. You can pick something on your own to read from Scripture.