

## **The Gospel of Luke**

### **A Father and Two Sons: The Father**

Luke 15:11-32

1. **The Character of the Father** (vs. 12, 17, 18)

The father is the most important person in this parable because he is the representation of God. It is significant that the younger son remembers the abundant kindness that characterizes his father's interactions with his hired help (cf. Ex. 34:6-7; Num 14:18; Ps. 145:8; Mic. 7:18; Rom. 2:4)

2. **The Pursuit by the Father** (v.20a)

In the previous parables, that which was being sought was of understood value to all (cf. Luke 15:4, 8). The son's enduring worth to his father is shown in that the father has been looking for him and now rushes to meet him (cf. Jon. 1:2; 4:2; John 21:15-17).

3. **The Immediate Reconciliation by the Father** (v.20b)

Before the younger son could say or do anything, his father reconciles him to himself (cf. Rom 4:4-5). God responds to repentant sinners by embracing them immediately without demanding first that they clean themselves up.

4. **The Joyful Restoration by the Father** (vs.22-24)

The father further responded by publicly demonstrating that the younger son was truly being received as an honored son (cf. Rom. 8:14-15; Eph. 1:5). The father called for a spontaneous and elaborate celebration to celebrate his son's homecoming after he was clothed in such a way to show that he had been received back and fully restored (Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22).

5. **The Persistence of the Father** (vs.28, 31-32)

The older son's alienation from his father is displayed because he does not rejoice in what his father does. The father shows his love for the older son when he leaves the celebration in order to plead with him that he might rejoice over the return of the younger son (cf. Matt. 23:11; Mk. 10:21).