



Sermon Notes

The Way of Agape Part 27 – Return to the Father
June 20, 2021

Jesus' parables revealed Kingdom principles and the heart of God the Father.

God's relentless agape love reaches beyond all the reasons and excuses, and will search for us, regardless of the reason we are lost.

Luke 15:11-22

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The 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. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He 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! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ 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.

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. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Prodigal: Spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant

Extravagant: Lacking restraint in the use of resources. Lavish. Prodigal.

God lavishes us with His love!

Ephesians 1:7-8

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us...

1 John 3:1

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!



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Because of God's extravagant love – He gives us free will.

God is a God of new beginnings, but He will not bring something new if we are still holding onto the old.

Isaiah 43:18-19

¹⁸ *“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.*

¹⁹ *See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

We cannot have a new beginning until there is an end to the old.

We will not give up anything if we do not see its futility.

1 John 1:9

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

A requirement for receiving God's extravagance – returning to Him.

Isaiah 44:22

²² *I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,
your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me,
for I have redeemed you.”*

Exodus 34:6

⁶ *And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness*

The father ran to the son.

The restoration pointed the son back to his identity.

