

# The Father Who Forgives & Welcomes In

Luke 15:11-32

## A Rebellious Heart - v. 11-16

## A Repentant Heart - v. 17-21

## The Forgiving Father - v. 20-24

## The Welcoming Father - v. 25-32

*“The truth here taught is just this: that mercy stretches forth her hand to misery, that grace receives men as sinners, that it deals with demerit, unworthiness and worthlessness; that those who think themselves righteous are not the objects of divine compassion, but the unrighteous, the guilty and the undeserving, are the proper subjects for the infinite mercy of God; in a word, that salvation is not of merit but of grace.” - C.H. Spurgeon*

### Application Questions:

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. Read all of Luke 15 together - in what ways are these three parables alike? How do these three parables answer the Pharisee's objection in verse 2?
3. What principles about God's love are evident in all three parables?
4. Reread the prodigal's cry of repentance (v. 17-21) - what do you notice? How is it similar to David's prayer of repentance found in Psalm 51? What do these passages tell us about repentance?
5. Comparing yourself to the two brothers in this story, who are you most like? How have you experienced God as similar to this father?
6. What does Jesus want to teach the Pharisees in verses 25-31? In light of the context (v.2), why does Jesus leave the story open-ended as to how the older brother responded to his father's plea?
7. How would you encourage / counsel someone who said that Christianity has felt more like "slaving" than a celebration? How might this passage help?

