



# A Father's Love

## Scripture in Reference:

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. <sup>13</sup> "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'" <sup>20</sup> "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

## Scripture mentioned:

John 14:9 (NLT) 1 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT)

## Summary:

What an amazing story of a father's love for his child captured in the story of the prodigal son. Here we see examples of forgiveness, hope, grace, and most importantly the love of a father for his child. In this week's sermon, Bishop Paul Ojeda explains the details of a loving father who is always open and eager to welcome his children back home. The father's response to his son coming home who has been away from him for so long is mind-blowing to us readers! Most of us would assume an angry, unforgiving and disappointed father upon the return of his disobedient son. Not so! It is the complete opposite of what we expected. By telling this story Jesus is emphasizing how eager God is to forgive us! How amazing it is knowing that we serve a God who is always eager to forgive us and ready to welcome us home, even when we feel unforgivable.

## Questions to ask yourself:

- How does your experience with your earthly father or mother affect your views of God, especially when you make mistakes?
- How has this story influenced you in forgiving those who have done wrong to you? Are you as open to forgiving others as God the Father is to forgiving you? What are you going to do different moving forward?

## Become a follower of Jesus today by saying this prayer:

"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."