

Not  
School's out!

Summer lessons from the parables

# Main Point

God's heart is for you, and He wants you to forward that to others



Jesus continued: “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 NIV



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. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.



Luke 15: 13-14 NIV



So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Luke 15: 15-16 NIV



“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! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.’

Luke 15: 17-18 NIV



I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.



Luke 15: 19-20a NIV



# His Younger Son Leaves

- ❖ He is hurt, disrespected and shamed
- ❖ Wide range of emotions
- ❖ Knows he will welcome his son back





TO WELCOME OR NOT

WELCOME



“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. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “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.

Luke 15: 20b-22 NIV



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



Luke 15: 23-24 NIV



# He Welcomes His Son Home

- ❖ Watching, waiting, hopeful, prayerful for his son
- ❖ RAN to his son
- ❖ Embraces and kisses his on
- ❖ Restored him to sonship
- ❖ Celebration worthy of the occasion

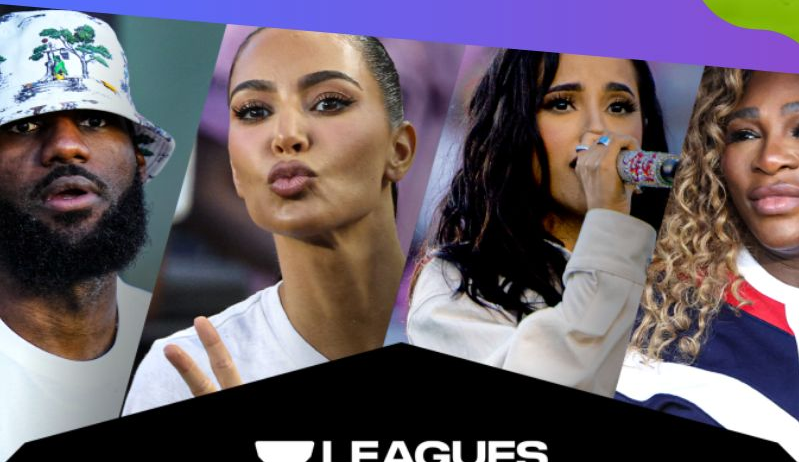


**HE**

**IS**



**HERE!!!**



**LEAGUES  
CUP 2023**



# God's Heart is For Us

- ❖ God celebrates our return
- ❖ God loves the WHOLE family
- ❖ Why is this love so hard to accept?
  - We feel unworthy
  - Even so it is given to us and it's ours



**“PEOPLE ARE CRAZY”**

**BILLY CURRINGTON**



“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.



Luke 15: 25-26 NIV





‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’  
“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

Luke 15: 27-28 NIV



But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

Luke 15: 29-30 NIV



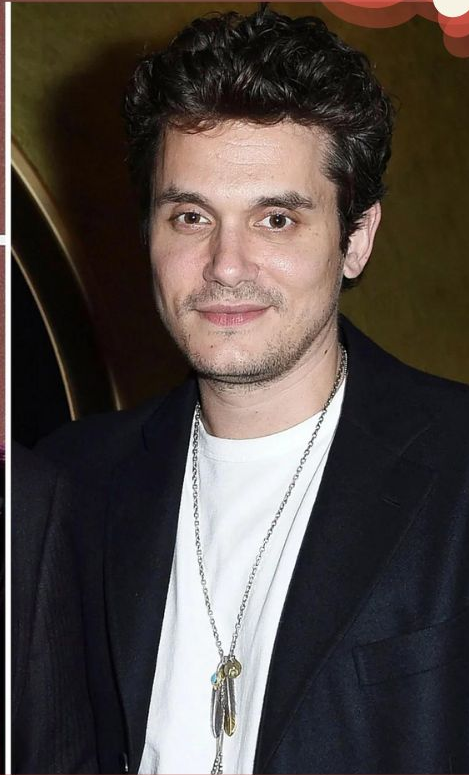
# His Older Son Stays but Strays

- ❖ He GOES to his older son
- ❖ Learns what is going on INSIDE his older son
  - Feels less valued and lacks compassion
  - His anger is directed at his father



„Dear“

Jahr“



“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Luke 15: 31-32 NIV

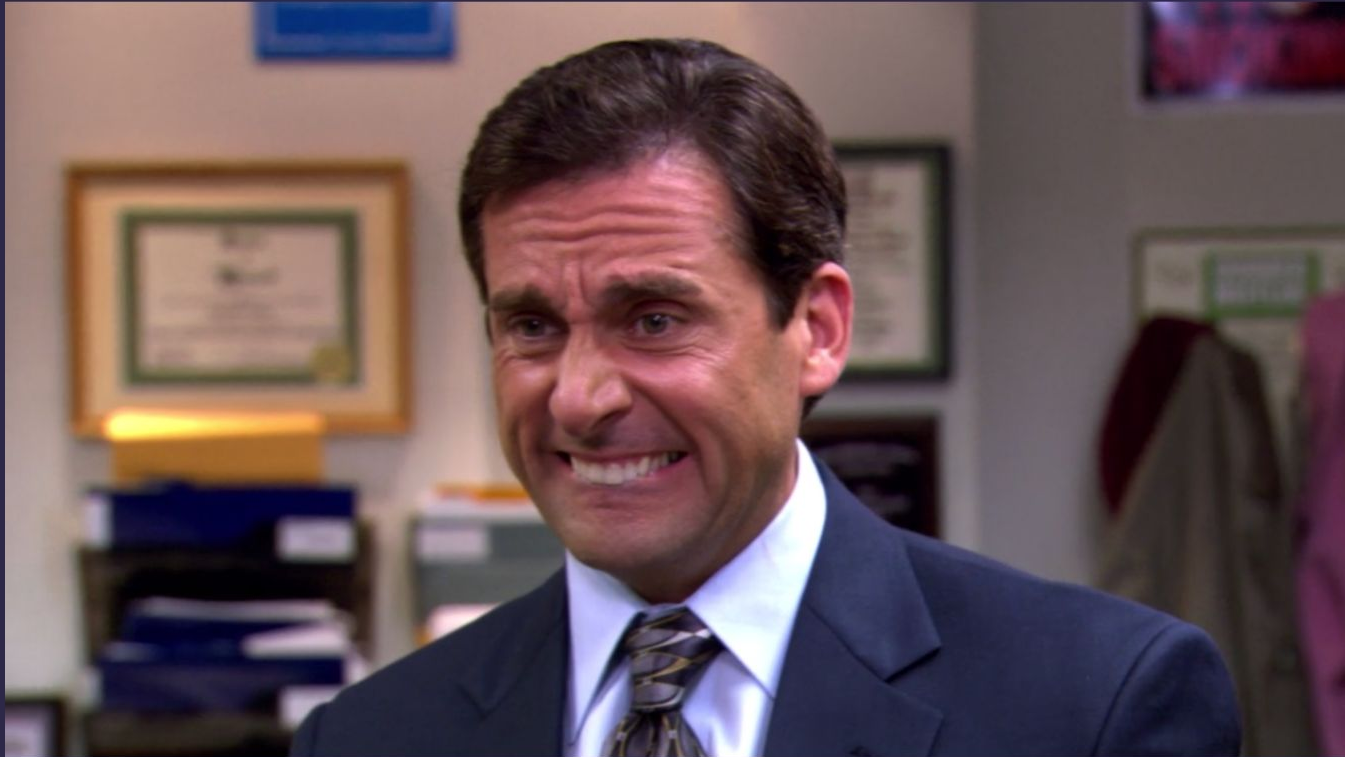


# His Son is Always His Son

- ❖ “You are still my child”
- ❖ “You didn’t lose anything”
- ❖ Love doesn’t rank, grade, or compare it just loves
- ❖ The celebration was necessary
- ❖ Tries to explain all of this to his son



**“EXPLAIN IT TO ME LIKE I’M 5”**



# God Wants Our Hearts to Be For Others

- ❖ “When God moves forward there is always someone muttering in the background”
- ❖ God doesn't want mutters, He wants celebrators
- ❖ God appreciates you sticking by Him
- ❖ God also appreciates you celebrating with others
- ❖ See others how He sees them





# *SIMULATORS / VIRTUAL REALITY*



# The Painting

- ❖ The father's hands are on the younger son
- ❖ The younger son is kneeling in repentance and humility
- ❖ The older brother is right there



# Wrap Up

- ❖ Remember God is the true example of a loving father
- ❖ That love never runs out for you
- ❖ You can always come back
- ❖ God wants us to forward that love to others



## Audio file

[The Father Audio Only.mp3](#)

## Transcript

So I asked you if. You had a warning label. What would it say? Now we're gonna get to the personal ones in a minute. But many things right have warning labels on them that we pick up. I was looking at one of Jeremiah's toy. He has a science kit thing at home and there's caution kids use with supervision, with adults, right? Want to make sure he's safe with it. Your rear view mirror is in your car. Have that sticker on it. You know, objects in mirror are closer than they appear. Products, right? Got my hair gel. This has a warning. Keep out of. Guys seems normal. Yes, don't wake up like this. Got to use some product. Keep out of eyes. If product enters eyes rinse thoroughly with water. Right, there's warnings on all this stuff to let us know what might happen, right? I don't know mine. Mine would probably say something to the effect of I'm super competitive. Quiet at first. I don't know what else I would say. But those would be the big ones. Like I'm real competitive. If we get into that. But I asked about those, right, because. We might want people to know things about us. We might want them to know ahead of time if we're charming. If we're blunt, like Eliana said, if you're so busy, maybe that you're late or anything like that a lot. This would maybe help the relationships grow or just anything like that, or the friendships how they're coming along. But now I want us to think about this. If the two sons. In the parable, the prodigal son had warning labels. Right. We're in our third week, our final week, and the parable of the Prodigal Son. And it's got the father and his two sons. Today we're going to focus on the father. Now think about it. If the younger son had a warning label, something the effect of that his dad could see that says I'm going to disrespect you, take you for granted and leave with everything and go away. And the older son said, I'm going to stay and appear like I'm working really hard, but it's all for my own personal gain because that's what these two did. Kyle and I were talking like it'd be great if our kids came with warning labels. Right. Like it'd be awesome to kind of know what's gonna happen. But in our parable, this is what these two did. Now there's more to the story, of course, but what I wonder is, you know, if the father knew this was coming, if he, if he met those kids when they were born and they had these warning labels, would you have done things differently? Would have changed anything. I don't think he would have. I think the answer is no, because the father in this parable who are going to talk about today. Represents God to us. God is our father. God knows our. Sees, right? God knows what our warning labels would be. He knows we may completely turn away and run off to that foreign country and squander everything he knows. We may stay, but stray from him like the older brother did. How we talked about last week, but in either case, God's heart for us doesn't change, just like the father's heart and this parable. Won't change towards his two sons. God's heart is always for us. It's a heart of forgiveness and a heart of welcome and a heart of grace. And when we come back to. Him and we repent of what we did and we come back, he welcomes us and celebrates us with that heart and he wants us to join in the celebration with others. This is what God wants. This is God's heart, and that's what we're going to focus on today, really. The heart of God, the heart of God, our. Father. So I want you to think about is this to remember God's heart. That's for you. And he wants you to forward that heart to others, right thing, but like forwarding out an e-mail or a message to pass it on. Remember, God's heart is for us. He wants us to forward that to others to keep it going and we're going to see through how the father handles both his

sons, how this can play out. So what we're going to do is we'll read through and it'll end up being the whole parable again. But we're going to look at it through the eyes of the father this time. So a different perspective. We're going to start with Luke 15 versus 11 through the first part of verse 20. It'll be right up here, behind me, on the Bibles. On your tables, follow along in those or tablets, phones, whatever you would like to use, we will start with Luke 15:11 through the first part of 20. It says this. Jesus continued. This is the very beginning of the parable. There was a man who had two sons, the younger one said to his father. Father, give me my share of these state so he divided his property between them. Now, long after that, the younger son got together, all he had set off for a distant country, and there squandered his wealth and wild living. After he'd spent everything there is fear, famine in the whole country began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country who sent him to his field to feed the pigs he longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, how many of my father's hired servants have food to spare? Here I am starving to death. I will set out and go back to my father and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants. So he got up and went to his father. We're going to stop there. So let's imagine how the father's feeling, his younger son, the baby of the family, right, hurts him, disrespects him, shames him again. This was the equivalent asking for that inheritance early to wishing his father dead. He takes everything that his father did for him completely for granted and then out right leaves him. It's like he's saying, dad, you're not good. You're not fun enough. You're not exciting enough. It's not worth it. I'm out now. The father. Has no clue. What's going to happen to his son? He just takes off, right? Like I get in this mode when I put Jeremiah on the bus to school and where I'm like, what's going to happen today? I don't know, and it's only for a day. In this story, the Sun just goes off and I got to imagine a crazy wide range of emotions of maybe some anger, some hurt, some frustration, confusion. Like what is going on? But he still loves his son. He loves him so much, he lets him go. He allows him to go off and experience and live and do all of these things. He's going to go do. Now he maybe doesn't want him to do it, but he doesn't force him to stay. He loves him enough to let him go, but he knows he loves him enough that he will welcome him back if and when he comes back.

OK.

Have you ever had somebody that you knew that left and then came back right? And wonder if you were welcoming when they came back? I'm gonna tell a middle school Jeff story how I was not like this. I was like middle school. Frenemies with a kid. If we're going to use that phrase, we played the same position in basketball. We're both point guards on the basketball team. We're in band. We like the same girls we had similar friend. Groups all this stuff. Well, his mom taught at our middle school. But then the family moved to a different city and he moved and started going to school this. Other middle school and. I was like, yeah, dude, see you later. This is great, I'm starting now. I got the girl. All this stuff, it was great, but his mom still taught the middle school, so he would start showing up again. Do like our. Dances and come back around to basketball games and everybody's like, Oh yeah, he's back. And I'm like, dude, go away. Like you finally left like no, right, like this guy who's like. No, no. Get away. I could not have been less welcoming him back. I had to play it off, but I. Don't want him back? I had the opposite heart and mindset of our father and the parable. Right. I didn't want him back. I wanted nothing to do with this kid. But the father in our story was so very welcoming. He wanted his son back and he welcomed him back. And here's how it plays out. Let's keep going, Luke 15. The second part of 20 through 24. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him was filled with compassion for

him. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him. Father, I've sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but the father said to his servants. Quick bring the best robe. Put it on him. Put a ring on his finger. Sandals on his feet. Bring the fat and calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For the son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found, so they began to celebrate. So he sees his son coming, implies he must have been looking right. I kind of wonder if this is. Like you know, he sits on that porch. Every day just kind of gazing out. Like is he OK? You know, he's praying. He's hopeful, you know. Is he OK? What's he doing? Will he come back? Obviously long, long before the days of cell phones, to inundate him with texts or emails or or direct messages like dude, where are you? What are you doing? Doesn't. Have that so I have to wonder if he's just like man. Is he going to come back and then he sees him and he runs to him. And this is actually a big deal. Because in this time and culture and society, an older guy, distinguished guy, a man of status like this father. They don't run. People run to them, but they would be kind of somebody would come to them for him to take off, running towards his son, he throws off any sort of pride he has because he's got excitement, he's got emotion, he's got love. So he goes to his son and he embraces him and he kisses him. This is a sign of forgiveness. We see this in second Samuel. 14 David while he's king, his son Absalon comes to him needing forgiveness, and David kisses him as a sign of forgiveness. So the father is. Forgiving his son. There's no shame, no guilt, no finger pointing. No, you will turn back around and go do that and get away. There, as I was studying this, there are still some cultures that have an issue with the parable because they're like there is no way a father would welcome a son back that did this. But he does. He welcomed back and totally unworthy son, and he restored him to sonship not as a servant, not as a hired hand, not as a slave or anything. He calls for the best robe. That would be a sign of dignity, a sign of like a guest of honor at a celebration would have that best robe puts a ring on his finger. That's a sign of authority. And then sandals on his feet. Again, this is status. Slaves, the very poor hired servants, wouldn't have any sort of sandals or footwear, and he probably ran up without any shoes on. But his father puts the sandals on his feet, gives him the robe, the ring. He restores him to the sonship and then says let's kill the fat and calf. This is the prized possession of the family. This is the best of the best. Think about that highest end meal you could have. The fathers, like we are going to celebrate. There is nothing bigger than this occasion. So they have that celebration. I've said before, I am a massive, massive soccer fan. In the last couple of weeks there was a soccer game that was treated like a massive celebration, one of arguably the best soccer players in the world. Leo Messi made a move to Miami and he started playing for a team here in the US called Inter Miami and this was hyped up and talked about. And there's a lot of money involved. But they blew this thing out as a spectacle. The stadium was lit up in pink, the likes of LeBron James and Serena Williams and Kim Kardashian were all at this this first. Game it was. And of course, he scores a game winner right at the end. It was like the most perfect. Thing, but it was this huge celebration and why? Because there was someone there that they felt like was worthy of the spectacle worthy of this big thing happening, he was the guest of honor. That's what our younger son is like. That's how the father treats that younger son. He has this massive thing. He would have invited the Lebrons and the Serenas and the Kardashians of his day to this party. And why? Because he has his massive heart for his son because he loves him that much. And he is back. So he has a celebration. He had a heart for his son. And what we need to remember from that is that God has a heart for. God will celebrate our return if we go away and come back, God will rejoice. It earlier in Luke 15. It will say that there is no greater joy in heaven when one Sinner comes back and repents no greater Joy, God welcomes and celebrates the outcast, the Sinner, the loss when they come back and show up. Because God loves that. The whole family, no matter what

he is, this example of a loving father, his love doesn't discriminate. He celebrates when one who was lost comes back. I read a quote that says Heaven finds this repentance beautiful. And they find it so beautiful. Why not have celebration beyond those celebrations? Be it this is hard sometimes and why? I think because it's hard to believe that this celebration could be for us if we've walked away and gone away and done things that we find terrible, that we find disrespectful to God and to other people. So we don't think we're worthy. Nobody could love us again. Nobody could accept us again. But God can and God. He wants that celebration for us and we come back. He is that welcoming and even says he wants other people there too, right? He wants other believers to rejoice and celebrate with this. I don't know if, when you've been in a time when things haven't been going well, you can be around a lot of people and still feel super lonely. Just feel alone and that's a crappy. But when we come back to God, what he's saying is it's you and God, but also there's others that will celebrate there, that loneliness can be gone. We may not deserve that party may not deserve everything we get from God, but it is there. It is ours to accept and to take. Because just given to us. There is a country song. Get to talk about country music. As a big fan of country music, Kyle's gonna roll his eyes at me. That's. OK, there's some by Billy Currington called. People are crazy and it's a classic country song. It talks about a guy going into a bar and talking to another guy, right? All the trademarks of a good country song so. They talk about life, talk about being in the military, the women, they dated habits they had. It's just two dudes sitting in a bar talking life. This is great. Well, then last call comes. They both leave. And the guy it's told him first person. So the singer of the songs like never saw him again. No big thing. Never saw him again. A little bit later sees this guy's obituary in the front page of the paper. Turns out he's absolutely loaded. He's a millionaire and he left all his inheritance to some guy he met in a bar. So he leaves it to the guy in the song and it's like. I'm doing great. His kids are super mad, but I'm great, right? He was left everything to this random guy that he met and it's totally crazy. But it was there. It was his. It was given to him. He didn't do anything to deserve it. He probably. Wasn't worthy of it. But it was there. And he. Could take it. God's love, his celebration, his grace, his forgiveness are ours. We can't earn it. We don't really deserve it, but it's there to do is take it. We repent of what we've done and we just we take it and accept that he does. Still love us. He will welcome us back and celebrate us for being back because the father, our Father, God, has a heart for us. So we have to accept that we have God's heart, that heart is for us. Then he wants us to show that heart to others, to forward that on. And I think we can learn some about that from the older son's part of the story. So let's look at this. This will be Luke 15:25 through 30. It says this meanwhile. The older son was in the field when he came near the house. He heard music and dancing, so he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. Your brothers come, he replied. Your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back, safe and sound. The older brother became angry and refused to go in, so his father went out and pleaded with him, but he answered his father look. All these years I've been slaving for you and you never disobeyed and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when the son of yours, who squandered your property with prostitutes, comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him. Alright, so again into the mind of the father, he's throwing this massive party, big celebration, younger son comes home. He's got to be on Cloud 9. And now he hears the older son is refusing to come in. I don't know if he knows why or is sure about anything, but he goes out to his older son. He runs to his younger son. He goes to him. He also goes to the older son. He goes and he pleads with him. He's like, come inside the park. And see it. But I think first with how the older son talks. The father sees what's going on inside the older son's heart. See the son? He stayed and he was close by and he kept working hard. But he actually really strayed pretty far away from the father. Inside this, older brother feels less valued than his younger

brother, and he also lacks any sort of compassion for him, to the point he won't even refer to him as his brother. And the father's got to feel this family divide, like my kids. Thankfully, right now, get along pretty well. But if they ever really got into it and kind of fight, that would be hard to see. Right. You want the kids to get along. So I think the older son has his anger and his frustration and he is directing it and pointing it right at. The father. Right. His father and his father's got to decide how he's going to respond to it. We just did a country music talk. Now we're gonna go to Taylor Swift, right? A day there is a thing for those of you not familiar. Yes, I'm a huge Taylor Swift fan. There is a kind of a thing where anybody she dates you basically say we'll get a song written about them when they break up because what happens? She had one written about John Mayer. Now Full disclosure. Also, John Mayer fan. I picked up a guitar for the first time when John Mayer got cool. Back when I was. In high school, so they dated. And apparently didn't get all go well to the point where she wrote a song called Dear. John and it's got lyrics that say, dear John, I see it all now that you're gone, don't you think I was too young to be messed with the girl in the dress cried the whole way home. Dear John, I see it all now. It was wrong. Don't you think? 19's too young to be played by your dark, twisted games when I. Loved you, so I should have known she's mad. Tate's man and she points it right at him. Right. She's mad, so he's got a choice to respond. Now, what did he do? He comes out in the media and says, and I just. I'm not worth that like this was this. Was low, she. Shouldn't have done it is a lousy thing for her to do. He gets like, defensive and kind of attacks her back. Not cool. The father thankfully doesn't do that. He could have. Fired back. He could have gone right at his son and said how dare you say these things to me? Point this anger at me. But he doesn't. He takes a much better approach because he realizes his son is always his son, so he starts to explain it to him. Verses 31 and 32 say this. My son, the father said. You are always with me. Everything I have is yours, but we had to celebrate and be glad because his brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He is lost and is now found, so he starts to kind of explain it, he says. Look, my son, you are still and always will be my child. He's soft. He's gentle. He appreciates that his son stayed with him. His heart is still with him, he says. Son, you didn't lose out on any. Right. What was promised to you, that's still yours. You're not loved any less. Love doesn't rank people great people. Or compare people. Love just loves people. But then he also he stands firm in what he's doing, that he's got to love both of his sons. He's like we had to celebrate your brother. You get into the Greek text of what was used here. It actually would better translate to. It was necessary to celebrate this. The importance of the celebration because he was dead and he's alive and he keeps referring to as your brother. He's like you guys are still brothers. You're still family. I need you to join in the celebration. I don't think the older son is just having a hard time contemplating this, right. We've all had things explained to us. It's like we just don't get it. He's like, OK, your son was lost in his. Found, but I'm still the brother. Right. So I think what the father's doing here is trying to just make this all click for his other son. He's got to explain it in a way that maybe he'll get it or. Try to get it to click. There's an example of this. Anybody ever watch the TV show? The office that was on for a long time. OK, maybe some of you something not. Either way, if you didn't explain this. So we got Michael Scott here played by Steve. There's an episode where he he gets a financial report at the end of the year and the the financial guy is walking him through it, showing all the number and he's paging through like ohh yeah you can. He gets none of it. He doesn't understand anything that's going on. And the guy says, hey, we have a budget surplus of \$4300. We need to spend that or we lose it in next year's budget and he doesn't get it, so he says. Explain it to me like. I'm 5. So he goes OK. You're gonna have you're you're gonna have a lemonade stand. Mommy and Daddy give. You 10 bucks to buy supplies. You buy sugar and cups and whatever else you need. The end of the day it only costs you \$9 to buy your supplies. Well, if you don't spend that extra dollar next summer when you try



to have a lemonade stand, mom and dad are only going to give you \$9. All cost. So he explains this to them in a way. And at the end of it, he's like, that's our surplus. I still, it's funny he probably doesn't really get it, but he. Acts like he's getting it, but it's gotta be broken down in a way that he gets it. And I think what the father and the parable is doing is just trying to explain why it was so necessary to welcome back and why it's so important that his brother celebrates with him. I think it's hard to understand for us. I think it really is because when God seems to do good things for other people or celebrate other people or bless other people, that we maybe don't think deserved it. Or we maybe our big. Fans of it's hard to grasp. But I think what the father is trying to say, what God is trying to say is my hearts for you. Take that heart and give it towards others. God wants our hearts to be for others, and this is hard is another quote that says when God moves forward, which is what he's doing with loving these people, God moves forward. There's always somebody muttering in the background. I am an absolute mutter. For sure, I'd be like, wait a minute, wait a minute. You're doing this? Like what? About all these things over here? But God doesn't want me to be a murderer. God doesn't want you to be a murderer. He wants us to. Be people that celebrate. To have a heart for others. When God shows his love to someone else in a very visible or tangible way, it doesn't take away. From the love he has for us, that can be easy to think and feel that. But it's not the case. God always appreciates the fact that we stick by him, that we're loyal and that we're obedient. This pleases God. It's always good to please God. But God also loves and celebrate those that were lost and come back and what he wants is us to have a heart for them and to celebrate with them as well. He really wants us to see them. How he sees them. When you are done like simulators at amusement parks or done virtual reality glasses or anything. With this what these are designed to do is put you kind of in the perspective or place of someone else. We we're at Disney World and years ago Stacy and her family were there. She's laughing because she knows where the story is going. We did a simulator called Mission Space and we're walking up to it. That's one of those. You're going to get like in a in a rocket and you're going to do a space mission. And there's two ways you can go on the line. One says less intense. One says more intense. And remember her dad being like, oh, more intense. And I'm like, yeah, it's not going.

This is.

To go well. For Jeff, but we go and you know it says something. You sit in the chair and in the simulator they have like the airplane airsick bags right there like like. Oh, this is not. So we do the whole thing and I remember what my role was Stacy sitting next to me, two random people are over here, remember? They were just people that were on the ride and we do the whole thing and you're taking off and you're shooting up like this and you go and. Of course, there's a crash landing that you have to survive and all this and I, we get to the end. I'm like, oh, I'm going to lose it here because I do not do motion stuff while I'm all like this and everything and. We get off the ride and I held it all in, but that did not go well. I learned being in the perspective of that astronaut was not a good thing for me, so I'm not going to space anytime soon, right? VR glasses might put you in different types of games or golf simulators. All these kind of things they want to put you to have a vision so bit different or in somebody else's view. I think that's what God is wanting us to do. Seeing people how God sees them, this isn't easy. It's not something we're always able to do, but I think that the way the father explains everything to his older son, that's what he's getting at like, just see him like. Right. And it's hard. He's saying you are still 100% absolutely love. But see your brother. How I. Do he wants us to see them as forgiven, celebrate d and welcomed? He wants us to have a heart for others. Like he does a heart for them, just like he has a heart for us. And we'll take a look how you can go to the next slide here. I'm going to reference his painting.

Again, I know it's a little hard to see. It's a little dark. Take a look at it here. The father who's over here. He has his hands on the younger son. Kind of embracing him, welcoming. There's there's love. Towards his son and the younger son, is there kneeling kind of in repentance and humility. But the younger brothers here too, he's. Come back in. I think that's how God wants us to be. You know, he he has that heart for us if we're the younger son, if we get on our knees and repent, he hugs and welcomes us and he still wants the older brothers right there because we are still every bit as loved and he wants us to kind of pass that love to the younger brothers too, because he has a heart for both sons. God has a heart for us no matter where we are. So I want us to remember that God is the true example of a father who loves his entire family and that love never runs out. If you've turned away, gone out, run away. Done things you think are terrible or unforgivable and that you can't come back to God, but you can't because his heart is still for you. His love is still for you, and it always will. He will welcome. You back? And then God also wants us to check our own hearts and make sure that we've stayed with him and then celebrate those that have come back to realize. God still loves us, even when he's showing, seemingly showing more love to other people. Right? He wants us to check those hearts, to move forward, that love to others. We don't lose anything again and it keeps saying it. When God shows love to others, we don't lose any of that. God has plenty of love. He just wants us to celebrate with all those others. We want to be a place that celebrates those that have come back. We are still loved. We're cared for, we're appreciated. So remember that God's heart is for you. And you also wants us to forward that on to others. Remember God's heart, let's pray. Got to thank you for this parable. We spent three weeks in and got just everything that we can take from it that we can learn how maybe we've been younger brothers or older brothers. And God, that in either case you as our true and loving father, love us always. Your hearts for us, that you will welcome us back, that you will celebrate us. God, that even as we stand by you and we stay close, that you're always still loving us. So God, I pray that whether we feel like we're younger brothers, older brothers or we're still right with you. That we would remember that your heart is for us and that we would take that heart, that we would see other people. The way you do and we would love them in that same way your name.