

Rediscovering Our Relationship With the Father

Key text: *Luke 15:11-31*

Truth is the most valuable thing in the world.
Knowing the truth is the ultimate goal in life.

Our mission in life is to know the truth about God,
our Father.

How much do we know God as our father?

The Parable of the Lost Son. *Luke 15:11-31*

As we carefully read the story, we will find that both did not know who their father was, therefore both sons were lost, not fully understanding that they were in that most privileged position as sons.

They both failed to realise their position as sons and therefore acted differently.

They also failed to recognise the true nature, character and the heart of their father.

The **younger son** misused and abused the resources and the privilege of being a son. He became **unrighteous**, leaving his father and living recklessly.

The **older son** did not even utilise the resources and the privilege of being a son, not realising that

everything that his father owned was his. He became **self-righteous** that he could not accept his wayward brother and was upset with his father because of how he received the younger son.

The younger son had a different outlook towards his father and therefore abused and misused his father for his own lustful desires.

The younger son saw himself as a master and wanted his father to serve him. Read *Luke 15:12*

The older son also had a different view of his father. **The older son saw his father as a master and he wanted to serve the father.** Read *Luke 15:29*

The older son did nothing but to serve to please the father. He lost sight of himself and his desire to serve, not realising that he was already pleasing to the father, just by being a son. Read ***Matt. 3:17***

He failed to realise his position as a son and lived like a servant. He was in the house but not at home.

One father, 2 sons – 2 different theologies.

As believers, we have the propensity to create our own theology about God, our Father, and fall in one of these two types of beliefs.

Theology was developed to help Christians rethink their relationship with God and understand the importance of giving God priority over oneself.

Cats and dogs have different views of their master.

Dogs say to their masters, “*You feed me, you pet me, you shelter me, you love me... You must be God!*”

Cats say to their masters, “*You feed me, you pet me, you shelter me, you love me... I must be God!*”

I totally agree with the dog theology, but the problem is, doing it from a position of being a servant, not from a position of being a son or a daughter of God. We will just be missing the point and end up like the self-righteous, older son of the Prodigal Father. Read ***Luke 15: 28-29, 31***

Yes, he was in the house, but he was not at home.

Our love, commitment and obedience **MUST NOT** come from a position of being a servant but from a position of being sons and daughters.

Our relationship with God, Him being our Father and us as His children, empowers us to love Him more and know Him more and serve Him more and

in return experience the benefit of being sons and daughters of the Living God.

First and foremost, we need to become a child of God.

John 1:11-12 – He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (authority, power) to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

Being a child of God is the beginning of an ongoing love relationship between us, His children, and Him as our Father, and this will continue throughout eternity.

Each day we need to grow in the knowledge and understanding about who our Father is - what kind of Father He is, His nature, His character, and His ways. Knowing Him intimately is the key and not just knowing about Him.

JESUS IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE.

a. *Jesus knew who His Father was.*

The Father knows Him and He knows the Father.
Read *John 10:15*

Jesus at the age of 12 years, knew that God was His Father. Read ***Luke 2:49***

In ***Luke 3:22***, After Jesus was baptised... *a voice came down from heaven saying, “You are my beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.”*

b. *Jesus saw Him as a Father and not master.*

Throughout the four gospels, Jesus would always call Him, “FATHER” and not “Master”.

Jesus followed and obeyed the Father from the position of being a son, not from a position of being a servant. Read ***Matt. 11:25; John 5:8***

c. *Jesus loved the Father that He followed Him even to the point of death.*

There is an ongoing love relationship and intimacy between the Father and the Son. Read ***Jn 15:10***

Jesus knew the Father so well that He was able to live in total humility till death on the cross.

Jesus was secure in His Father’s presence knowing that His father was always with Him and for Him.