
Reconciliation with God

Luke 15:11-32

“Going Back”

Have you ever gone back to your parents, as an adult yourself, to ask forgiveness for the sins of your youth? If you're like most, you probably weren't the easiest person to raise. You might have ripped your parents' hearts either with rebellion against them and their standards, or with your ungodly lifestyle choices of immorality or wild living. It may be 20 years later when you finally “see the light” and express your most humble apology. If you do, that moment will surely be one of the priceless treasures in your parents' lives. Your heavenly Father has also loved you with parental love that is unconditional. When you were rebellious and/or ungodly in your behaviors and decisions, his love for you was just as strong as it is today. If you want to pursue holiness, there must come a time when you return to the Lord with apologies. It's time to come clean.

Reflection

The first time this hits you, you'll never be the same. It's a profound thought that the Lord takes every one of your sins personally. He views your sin as directly against him! King David said, “You are really the one I have sinned against; I have disobeyed you and have done wrong.” (Psalm 51.4) The Apostle John knew this principle very well. He understood that if your walk with the Lord is going to be real and personal, there must not be anything between you and God. John instructs us, “But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.” (1 John 1.9)

Accountability and Application

One of the keys to walking with the Lord closely and personally is to confess and apologize to the Lord for the ways you have disobeyed and grieved him.

Are there sins and wrong attitudes in your life, past and present, which need to be reconciled with the Father? Are there unconfessed areas that you are hiding?

How would your walk with the Lord change if you were willing to set these areas straight?

PRAYER:

Lord, I apologize for taking so long in getting to this point, but I want to ask your personal forgiveness for _____.

Luke 15:11-32 (English Standard Version)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"