

# Luke

## See Jesus

### The Extravagant Grace of God

#### Luke 15:17-24

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 13, 2022

This parable, more than any other, highlights the radical nature of God's amazing grace and His extravagant love for sinners!

#### I. He Longs for You to Come Home to Him

**Luke 15:20** "...But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion..."

That father was still looking for that son. He'd never given up! He'd never written him off. He never stopped loving him or looking for him!

You may have used God, squandered His blessings, ignored Him, and taken Him for granted... but He's still looking for you now. He hasn't forgotten about you, and He loves you!

**Luke 15:20** "...his father saw him and felt compassion..."

The Greek meaning here is "his vitals moved," and his heart beat quickly with longing. It's a word that means a gut feeling - an emotion so strong that it makes your stomach churn.

#### II. He's Ready to Love You in Personal and Passionate Ways

**Luke 15:20** "...and ran..."

He picks up his long garments—looking like a servant and risking shame—as he runs to embrace this same son who has rejected him, dishonored him, and shamed his name!

**Luke 15:20** "...he ran and embraced him and kissed him."

The verb tense that's used right here for "kiss" actually means he kissed him fervently and repeatedly. A better translation would be that he "smothered him with kisses."

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world..." [Fervently, tenderly, passionately] "...that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Jesus gave these parables in Luke 15 for one great purpose: to radically alter, turn upside down, and forever correct our twisted, short-sighted notions about who God is, how God loves, and who God loves. Our God is not like us and His love is not like ours!

Regardless of what you've done, where you've been, who you've been with, or how long you've been there, He's ready to receive you.

Philip Yancey gives a sad commentary on Ernest Hemingway and the family he grew up in when he says:

*"Hemingway knew about the ungrace of families. His grandparents had attended evangelical Wheaton College. And his devout parents detested Hemingway's libertine life. After a time, his mother refused to allow him in her presence. One year for his birthday, she mailed him a cake along with the gun his father had used to kill himself. Another year she wrote him a letter explaining that a mother's life is like a bank. 'Every child that is born to her enters the world with a large and prosperous bank account, seemingly inexhaustible. The child,' she continued, 'makes withdrawals, but no deposits during all the early years. Later, when the child grows up...*

*it is his responsibility to replenish the supply he has drawn down.’ Hemingway's mother then proceeded to spell out all the specific ways in which Ernest should be making ‘deposits to keep the account in good standing’: flowers, fruit or candy, a surreptitious paying of Mother's bills, and above all a determination to stop ‘neglecting your duties to God and your Saviour, Jesus Christ.’”*

~ Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

Regardless of what kind of notions your parents, or some Christian, or some church you grew up in, gave you about Christianity and God, Jesus is here to shatter that puny picture with the reality of a running father who’s filled with compassion and ready to smother you with the kisses of His love.

### III. He’s Ready to Forgive You with Extravagant Grace

**Luke 15:22-24** “But 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. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

- “Shoes on his feet” – In that day, only members of the household wore shoes; slaves went barefoot!
- “Best robe” – Not just some clothes. The father could’ve said, “Get him out of these rags and into something clean,” but he said, “Bring out the best robe and put it on him.” Here, we can’t help but see a picture of the robe of righteousness that God gives us from His perfect son – Jesus - the best robe!
- “A ring on his hand” – Symbol of authority.
- “Kill the fatted calf” – In that day they rarely ate meat, but many families had a fatted calf they were saving to be slaughtered on some very special occasion.

This entire chapter blows up with a celebration and joy that’s unmatched in any other parable. It highlights the extravagant grace of God in the face of our extreme sin.

**v. 23** “And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.”

**v. 24** “...and they began to celebrate.”

**v. 32** “It was fitting to celebrate and be glad...”

**NIV, NASB, NLT** “But we had to celebrate and rejoice...”

To get this extravagant grace in your own life, the only thing you need to do is what the prodigal son did—come to your senses, turn away from your pigpen of sin, and come home to God.

**Luke 15:17-18, 20 (NASB)** “But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight...’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and came to his father...”