



## **GDM Message Summary: 7 Things About the Father**

### Takeaway:

Even if you've been in the house of the Lord for a while, God loves you just as much as He loves the lost and your sin is no different from theirs (sin of flesh = sin of attitude).

### Scriptural References:

- Luke 15:11
  - The subject of the parable is the father.
- John 3:16
  - God gave His first and His best, so we should give Him back our first and our best.
- Luke 15:12
  - Everything the son had came from the father.
- Luke 15:13
  - Many want what God has, but once they have it, they no longer have time for God.
  - The father never flinched despite the son's missteps.
- Luke 15:17
  - The father was not trying to harm the son, but to protect him.
- Luke 15:18-19
  - When the youngest son owned his problems, everything shifted. Most importantly, his heart changed and he put the power in his father's hands. The father never moved; the boy did.
- Luke 15:20-24
  - The father protected his son from the community by taking the shame and criticism upon himself. Even the smell of pig could not stop the father's affection.
- Luke 15:25-28
  - The older son was upset and wanted his brother to be punished.
- Luke 15: 29
  - The father loved both - the legalistic and the carnal brother.
- Psalm 145:9
  - The Lord is good to ALL.

### Key Points:

- *Point 1: The father is approachable.*
- *Point 2: The father is a giver and he gives to the unworthy.*
  - *You cannot give without loving and you cannot love God's way without giving.*
  - *We're most like God when we are giving because He is a giver by nature.*
- *Point 3: The sins of the son never cause the father to give less to him.*
- *Point 4: God always provides for His own.*
- *Point 5: When we come to the Father, he is always willing to carry our shame and disgrace.*
- *Point 6: God did not love one son more than he loved the other.*
- *Point 7: God desires for each of us to receive mercy instead of judgment.*
- Every gift we have comes from the Father and we will have to account for them.
- Though we may change and we may wander, there is nothing we can do to change God.
- God does not want to harm you, but protect us. Technically, He owes us nothing; we owe Him!
- We're not doing God a favor by living right; we are protecting ourselves by remaining under the covering.
- God always provides for us. If our needs aren't being met, we've stepped from under His covering. When you have a relationship with God, He's more than enough.
- If life is beating you down, you have stepped out on your own and from underneath the principles designed to keep you.
- We would learn more from our mistakes if we'd spend less time denying or excusing them.
- You will experience a shift when you fully submit to God, ask Him to make you a servant and get to work ("make me" in lieu of "give me").
- We tend to focus on *justice* when someone else wrongs us, but we focus on *mercy* when we do wrong.
- We should refrain from embracing our anger because it is usually unwarranted.