



## GDM Message Summary: The Tale of Two Sons, Pt. 2

### Takeaway:

God is not focused on the wrong you did, but the fact that you're willing to come back. And when you come back, He loves you, embraces you and tries to help you recover everything you've lost in the midst of the foolishness. We must also refrain from looking down on those who were once lost but are now found.

### Scriptural References:

- Luke 15:22-24
  - The son had come home with a carefully prepared speech, but he was instantly reinstated into full sonship without having to beg and plead.
  - The reinstatement was not free. It cost both Jesus and the fatted calf their lives.
- Luke 7:34
  - The Pharisees and Sadducees had a serious problem with who Jesus ate and drank with. They were jealous of his ability to connect with tax collectors and sinners.
- Luke 15:25-28
  - The older son had a performance-driven (slave master) relationship with his father, but he didn't really know him or understand his heart. If he really loved the father, he would rejoice because the father has his son's back. Instead, the older brother couldn't make the distinction between the sin and the sinner.
- Luke 15:29-30
  - The father came out of happy-mode to plead with the older brother (which was not customary in this culture). The older brother thought very highly of himself and forgot that he had imperfections. He was also breaking one of the Ten Commandments by dishonoring his father.
- Luke 15:31-32
  - The father reminded the son that he was always with the younger brother. He also communicated that his compassion on the younger brother did not impact him. Ultimately, the younger brother lost everything and all he had left was the father.

### Key Points:

- If you have to beg to be in someone's life, you probably shouldn't be there.
  - We often beg and plead with God, but He is not a mean parent. He is a loving father and only wants what's best for us. He knows what we need before we ask.
  - Note: There's no begging in the Lord's Prayer.
- God still offers us His best even after we've done our worse.
- It's OK to spend time with wayward folks as long as you're influencing them, and they're not influencing you.
- Religious people without a relationship with God are often puzzled by those who can have a good time in the presence of God.
- Sometimes, we hate sin more than we love people. We become so religious that we don't realize how angry we really are.
  - God hates sin, but loves the sinner.
- God disciplines us out of love, not hate.
- However, if His grace does not come out of finality, the world will never change. Heaven will become hell if God lets everyone in.
- We should refrain from growing angry with God when He is patient with someone else who's hurting or in trouble.
- The father showed just as much patience with the younger brother (deceived by the world) as he did the older brother (self-deceived), and God loved both!