

GDM Message Summary: The Tale of Two Sons, Pt. 1

Takeaway:

God's love is unconditional and will never change. He just wants us to love Him back. Once you make that decision, the angels in heaven will rejoice.

Scriptural References:

- Luke 15:11-12
 - The entire chapter is about lost things, but summarized by talking about a lost son.
 - The younger son was requesting his inheritance, which is synonymous with wanting his father dead.
 - Instead of the dad fussing about it, he gave the son freedom to make his own choices.
- Luke 15:13
 - The young son sold all his possessions for cash and moved far away. He subsequently blew his inheritance.
 - If the father had stepped in too quickly, the younger son wouldn't have learned a lesson.
- Luke 15:14-19
 - A famine swept the land and he was forced to work as a servant in the field, eating pig's food for nourishment. None of his friends extended a helping hand. This caused him to think of his father.
- Luke 15:20-21
 - His father recognized him from a distance and ran towards him. (Running wasn't commonplace for an old man).
- Luke 15:22-23
 - Instead of speaking to the son, the father rebukes everyone watching him and asks his servants to adorn him in the finest clothing (even though he reeks of swine and has really messed up). Also, be mindful that the father made his own sacrifice to pay for his son's sins.
- Luke 15:24
 - The father refused to focus on his son's dead past. He chose to focus on the fact that his son is alive again!
- Luke 15:25
 - The celebration cannot be held without the sacrificial calf.

Key Points:

- There are some who love God for what He has, not for who He is.
- Sometimes, God gives us the ability to make mistakes to learn valuable lessons.
 - We don't look up until we get knocked down because we are so hard-headed.
- Sometimes failure is the best teacher.
- Oftentimes, the issue isn't God, but us and how we continue to be disobedient.

- God is not a slave driver. He will not force any of us to love Him.
- The enemy will enjoy you for the night and kick you out of the bed in the morning.
- The distance you travel away from God is the same length as the journey you will have to take back to God.
 - The good news is that He will still recognize you from a distance because nothing can hide us from the eyes of our Father.
- We sometimes struggle with a sense of entitlement.
- Even if we are covered in sin, God wraps us in the garments of righteousness.
- Jesus goes to great lengths to demonstrate the love He has for each of us. Although we didn't ask, God gave us the greatest sacrifice so that we would have joy, peace and freedom in the Holy Spirit.
- He knows exactly what we need before we even ask.
- We need to focus on what we've found on our Christian walk with God, not on all the past hurt.
- In this parable, the young son finally grew to understand the real love of the Father.