



part 1, *The Father's Heart*

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INTRODUCTION

1) We've all been broken at one point or another in our lives. Do you recall one of those moments, and what brought you to a relationship with Jesus? If you're not a believer, what makes you curious enough to come out?

2) Why do you think many churches today are not attracting the broken and marginalized with Jesus' message of grace?

TAKING IT HOME

3) Read Luke 15:11-32, then answer the following questions:

- a. What is your initial perception of the younger son?
- b. If you were the parent of this younger son, how would you react to the actions of the younger son?
- c. The younger son believes he is no longer worthy to be called his father's son. What does that tell us about his view of what it takes to be loved and accepted? Is this view prevalent today?
- d. What is your initial perception of the older son? How is his sin different from the younger son?
- e. Which son do you identify more with? Which son do you relate with more?
- f. The father is a picture of God. If God's grace is absolutely free and we cannot earn it or merit it in any way, and if His love is unconditional, what motivation is there to live an obedient life?

4) The parable is ultimately a story about an amazingly loving Father. What tangible step can you take to emulate our Heavenly Father's heart?