

Luke 15:11-32 contains the longest parable in the Gospels, commonly known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Today, on Easter Sunday, we want to interpret this parable focusing on the father in the story.

What was the true message Jesus wanted to convey through this story? He wanted to show what God is like through the image of the father.

In the passage, we meet a father who is not easy to understand. The image of the father that would have been hard for 1st-century Jews to comprehend is the very image Jesus uses to emphasize the character of God.

1. The Father Who Gives Love

The father in today's passage appears as one who gives without limit. First, he gives his younger son his share of the inheritance when asked.

In 1st-century Jewish culture, such a request was utterly unacceptable. For a younger son to ask for his inheritance was not only inappropriate—it was essentially wishing his father's death.

So, what should the father have done? He should have asserted his authority and honor against the son who had disgraced him. In those days, it was not a problem for a father to beat his son. He could punish him severely. In a gathering of village elders, he could even strip the son of his status. He could declare the son dead and hold a funeral (Deuteronomy 21:18-21, the "Kezazah" ceremony).

But in this parable, the father divides his property between the sons without saying a word.

2. The Father Who Continues to Give to the Returning Son

The father's giving nature does not end there. Even after the younger son squanders his wealth in a distant country and returns, the father's love remains unchanged. He runs to him, embraces him, and kisses him. Then he puts the best robe on him, a ring on his finger, and sandals on his feet.

Sandals were a symbol of freedom, the best robe restored the son's honor, and the ring represented authority. These items were all the father's own belongings. He gave his status, his honor, and his authority to the son. Then he killed the fattened calf and held a feast. Through this parable, Jesus reveals to us who God the Father is. He shows us the heart and love of our Heavenly Father.

To us who once wished to live without God, He gave His own Son, the essence of His life. More than that, when we return to Him, God gives Himself to us again. He restores our identity, honor, and authority as children of God.

Why does the father in the parable give so much to his son? Because he loves him (Luke 15:20).

What is the father's true desire in this story? That the son who left would return home. And why does he long for that? Because he loves his son and wants to be with him. The father's deepest wish is to live in love together with his son.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32)

**Bible
Reading**

4/21(Mon)	4/22(Tue)	4/23(Wed)	4/24(Thur)	4/25(Fri)	4/26(Sat)	4/27(Sun)
1 Samuel 14-15	1 Samuel 16-18	1 Samuel 19	1 Samuel 20-22	1 Samuel 23-24	1 Kings 1	1 Kings 2-3

QT

Quiet Time Passage

4/21(Mon)	4/22(Tue)	4/23(Wed)	4/24(Thur)	4/25(Fri)	4/26(Sat)	4/27(Sun)
Numbers 14:1-10	Numbers 14:11-25	Numbers 14:26-38	Numbers 14:39-45	Numbers 15:1-21	Numbers 15:22-31	Numbers 15:32-41

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share a moment from this past week or a recent QT (Quiet Time) in which you experienced God's grace.

2. What new insight or blessing did you receive from today's message?