

### Lesson 3                      To Be Pleasing *to* God

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. **Zephaniah 3:17 = MEMORY**

- Rejoice = twirl about, kicking up heels like calf released/stall
- Is that how you see = our Heavenly Father?
- For many yrs = thought nothing I could do / please Him
- Felt unworthy of His love = one day = impressed upon my mind
- Share w/ anyone who has ever been told **“WORTHLESS”**

<p><b>You are worth nothing less than/price He paid to save you</b></p>
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**1 Peter 1:18–19** <sup>18</sup>... you were not redeemed from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **not** w/ corruptible things =, like silver / gold, <sup>19</sup>but w/ the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a **lamb without blemish and without spot**.

- No matter how corrupted we were by sin / how prone to evil
- He came to save us from our sins (not in our sins)
- Once you accept His call = complete good work He /began

**Psalm 147:11** Lord **delights / takes pleasure** in those who put their hope in His unfailing love [receive/ respond to His love]

**1 Thessalonians 5:23–24** <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; [God does work in us = separate us from sin by His power = purify our thoughts/ words/ actions] ...that we may be preserved blameless [spotless] at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>**He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

SUNDAY

**More Valuable Than You Can Imagine**

God's nature is love = separates Him from sin = love does no harm

- Earlier lesson = say, God loves all people
- even worst sinner or worst evildoer
- Because He loves us, He hates what sin does to harm us

**Luke 15:11–32 Parable of prodigal son reveals**

**God's compassion / love**

**ABSG summarizes =** In this story that Jesus tells, the man's son requested his inheritance early, effectively rejecting his father and his father's household.

- Prodigal son goes off / squanders his inheritance / is reduced to poverty/ hunger, **slopping pigs**, envying they eat from a trough.
- Realizing his father's servants have more than enough food, he decides to return home = in hopes of becoming / servant.
- What follows is powerful = Some fathers would turn such a son away upon his return. "You took your inheritance and cut yourself off from my house. You no longer have a home here."

**That would be a logical, even reasonable, attitude, would it not?**

- In eyes of some human parents / son had gone too far to be accepted back home, especially as a son.
- But, in parable = father (representing God Himself) does **not** respond like that. Rather, **LUKE 15:20 says** "when the prodigal son was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him
- Even though / considered less than dignified in such times for = master of the house to run out to meet someone

- father in his **great compassion** ran out to meet his son / more astonishingly / restored him to his household / even throwing a celebration in his behalf, signifying= **great compassion of God** for each **wayward person** / **delight He takes in even a single person returning home**. What a picture of God! **unquote**

**Luke 15:25–32** Older son heard festivities / returned home to find out why party = Father explains = brother home safe/sound

- Older son / angry = points out he had always obeyed Father commandments/ but father had never thrown party for him
- Pointing an accusatory finger at brother = he “devoured your livelihood with harlots”

**Fairly normal human reaction = based at least in part on fairness**

**Luke 15:31** Father said to older son, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”

**What does this part of story teach us?**

- **Human concepts of fairness don’t capture**
  - **depth of the gospel = or = of God’s love for us**
- In parable = prodigal son in despair / starving = walked weakly toward father = father had “best robe” placed on his son
- When we turn to Jesus = no matter on sin-sick condition
- our Savior runs to meet us = Embraces us w/loving arms –
  - places His robe of righteousness on us
  - to reconcile our relationship w/ God
- **Welcomes us = into the fold**