

The Joy of the Father: The Three Lost Things

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References: **Luke 15**, Luke 14:34-35; Matthew 5:13; Matthew 2:13; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Romans 12:15; Luke 14:18; 1 John 4:8

The Salt of the Earth

Well again, welcome to those who are just joining us. And we're going to be studying tonight in the book of Luke, chapter 15. I think we did not finish 14 yet. We didn't. I thought we did. We still have 34 or 35. Okay. All right. Let's go back to 14, 34, and 35 then.

再一次欢迎那些刚加入我们的人。我们今天要学习的是路加福音第十五章。我想我们第十四章还没有结束，第三十四和三十五节我们还没有解释。我们可以回到第十四章三十四和三十五节。

[Luke 14:34-35 NKJV]

³⁴ "Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

你们讲的，盐本是好的，如果盐失了味，可用什么叫它再咸呢？或在田里，或在粪里，都不合适，只好丢在外面。有耳可听的，就应当听。

So salt, as far as we're concerned, has no other value. So the basic teaching of the Bible is that we are the **salt of the earth**.

就我们而言，盐没有其他的价值。因为这个基本的教义是我们是这个地上的盐。

[Matthew 5:13 NKJV]

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

你们是世上的盐。盐若失了味，怎能叫它再咸呢？以后无用，不过丢在外面，被人践踏了。

Salt in this context is used to make things taste good. Does the earth today taste good to God? And certainly there's much going on in the world today that would distress the Lord. It certainly distresses us. What makes the world taste good to God? And the answer is, it's the Christians who are in it.

在这个地方呢，盐就是说让那些东西味道好吃。今天的地球对神来说是好吃的吗？肯定地，地上发生的那些事情让主很有压力，对我们来说也是。怎么样让这个世界对主来说感觉好呢？答案就是基督徒在里面。

And so, a lot of other problems out there, but God looks down, he sees the Christian, he rejoices over him, as we'll see in Luke 15. And he says, "Praise the Lord." So what is your value, what is your job in the world today? Your job is to **taste good** for God.

虽然外面有很多问题，但主看在地上，祂看到基督徒，祂就为此喜乐，正如我们在第十五章里会读到的，祂说：“赞美主。”所以你的价值和你的工作在当今的世界上是什么呢？你的工作就是让神尝起来觉得好味。

Well, that's amazing to think that God could be happy just by looking at me, but it's true. But that's only part of the situation. The other part is that God looks at me, God looks at you, and as a consequence, he is happy also with the things that are around us. So my job is not only to taste good to God, but to make sure that the environment that I am in is made more pleasant to God because **I am in it** than it would be if I weren't.

这个也是非常神奇，神只是看见我，就感到非常高兴，但这是个事实。这是另外一件事，同样的，当神看到你、看到我，看到我们周围的东西的时候，祂也会感到高兴。所以我的工作不仅仅是让我自己让神尝起来好味，同样的，也要让我进入那个环境，让我周围的人事物因为我在里面，而让神尝起来好味。

So don't be a tasteless Christian. Make sure that when God sees you, he rejoices in you, and he says, "You taste good to me." All right, so the question is, what can I do then, in order to make sure that God is happy, that he does taste me and taste good?

所以不要做一个无味的基督徒。要确保当神看到你时，祂因你喜乐，祂说：“你对我来说很有味道。”所以问题是，我要做什么才能让神对我感到高兴，当祂尝我的时候觉得有好的味道？

The Three Lost Things

Chapter 15 is about the three lost things. And the objective in the story is that the lost be **found**. There's two reasons why people are lost. One is that they don't know where they are, and they're very upset. And the other is they're lost because they're hiding. Don't be the kind of person who's lost because you're hiding.

第十五章是关于三件丢失的东西。故事的目标就是让失丧的被找回。有两点原因说明人为什么会迷失。第一个是他们不知道自己在哪里，他们非常的沮丧。第二个是他们迷失是因为他们躲藏起来了。不要成为那样的，因为你自己躲藏起来而成为失丧的人。

[Luke 15:1 NKJV]

¹ Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.

第十五章第一节说，众税吏和罪人都挨近耶稣，要听祂讲道。

It's very interesting. It's very often the bad people, who know they're bad, who want to hear about the Lord Jesus.

这个非常有意思。通常那些坏人，他们知道他们是坏人，他们反而想听主耶稣的话。

[Luke 15:2 NKJV]

² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

法利赛人和文士私下议论说：“这个人接待罪人，又同他们吃饭。”

But the Pharisees and the scribes, the people who said, "We're not bad like they are," those people were saying this man receives sinners and eats with them. So the sinners came to hear him; the Pharisees knew that. They watched from the outside, they were probably listening, but they were very critical. They said, "Jesus couldn't be a good man, look at the people he associates with."

那些法利赛人和文士觉得：“我们没有那些人那么坏。”所以他们对主耶稣非常的挑剔，他们说主耶稣可能不是个好人，看看祂是和什么样的人在一起。那些罪人靠近主耶稣基督，而法利赛人可能在外边看着、听着。

[Luke 15:3 NKJV]

³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

第三节说，耶稣就用比喻对他们说。

The question is, who are the "them" of verse 3? And the answer is, probably both groups. He was speaking to the sinners, the tax collectors, but he was also speaking to the Pharisees and scribes. Lessons for both in the verses that follow.

现在问题是，在第三节里“他们”是谁？答案是可能两类人都在。祂在对税吏和罪人说话，也在对法利赛人和文士说话。接下来的比喻适用于他们两类人。

The Lost Sheep

[Luke 15:4-6 NKJV]

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!"

第四至六节说，你们中间谁有一百只羊，失去一只，不把这九十九只撇在旷野，去找那失去的羊，直到找着呢？找着了，就欢欢喜喜地扛在肩上，回到家里，就请朋友邻舍来，对他们说：“我失去的羊已经找着了，你们和我一同欢喜吧！”

It's thrilling that the Lord Jesus loves us, the one who is lost. It's very easy for us to say, "God wouldn't be interested in me. I'm just a little guy. I've got nothing to claim on him. He's not interested in me." But the teaching of scripture is that the heart of God goes out to the one who is lost.

主耶稣基督爱那些失丧的，这对他我们来说是非常惊奇的。我们很容易说：“神对我没兴趣，我只是个小人物，我得不到什么。”但圣经的教导是，神的心出去寻找那些失散的人。

And so there are two kinds of lost people. There are those who are lost and don't care, maybe don't know. And then there are those who are lost and **do** know and are in distress by it. In particular, therefore, if you're lost, if you've got needs, if you're crying and praying, the Lord Jesus loves you. He's looking out for you. He's seeking you.

有两类失散的人。第一类人失散了但不关心，或者他们也不知道。另一类人失散了，他们知道并感到很痛苦。如果你现在感到失散并去祷告呼求，主耶稣爱你，祂在寻找你。

So there are 100 in this story. One of them is lost and knows it. And the other 99 are out in the wilderness. They're not happy in the fold with the shepherd; they're still in the wilderness. There's a sense in which they're lost and they don't know it. But the Lord says he

will seek after those who are lost and do know it and want to be found. And this story tells that story wonderfully.

这里有一百只羊，其中一个失散了并不知道。而其他的九十九只在旷野里，他们并没有在牧羊人的羊圈里高兴地待着，他们仍然待在旷野里。从某种意义上讲，他们失散了但不知道。但主说祂想去寻找那个知道自己失散并想被找到的，这个故事奇妙地告诉了我们这一点。

Now what does the Lord do to those that he finds who have been lost? He puts the lamb on his shoulders, **rejoicing**. When a man or a woman becomes a Christian, who's happy? Like a little sheep, the lamb is happy. But far more happy is the shepherd. What makes Jesus happy? Among other things, the fact that you came to him and you said, "Lord Jesus, I need a Savior, please, would you save me?" And he rejoices and he puts you on his shoulder and he carries you home.

当主找到失散的人时，祂会做什么呢？祂把羊扛在肩上，大大的喜乐。当一个男的或女的成为基督徒，谁最高兴呢？像小羊一样，羊是高兴的，但更乐的是那个牧者。什么让耶稣高兴？其中一件事就是你来到祂面前说：“主耶稣，我需要救主，请救我。”祂就欢喜，把你扛在肩上带你回家。

So what happened when I became a Christian? Well, I think heaven was rejoicing at that occasion. And I think God called together many of the people in heaven that knew me or knew about me and said, "Rejoice, Harold has become a Christian." I think heaven had a party when I became a Christian. And I think heaven had a party when you became a Christian.

当我成为基督徒时发生了什么？我认为天堂在那时都在欢庆。我认为神会把天上那些认识我的或知道我的人全都叫到一起说：“欢喜吧，哈尔的成为基督徒了。”我认为天上有一个大的欢庆聚会。当你成为基督徒时，天上也有一个欢庆的聚会。

Frankly, I think there's lots of parties going on in heaven. Many people are becoming Christians, and I think there's lots of parties for Christians to attend in heaven. Heaven is a happy place because lost sheep get found, and all heaven rejoices. What kind of rejoicing?

坦率地说，我认为在天上有许多欢庆。许多人成为基督徒，在天上有很多聚会可以让基督徒参加。天堂是一个幸福的地方，因为失去的羊被找到，整个天堂都喜乐欢欣。这是什么样的喜乐呢？

[Luke 15:7 NKJV]

⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

第七节，我告诉你们，一个罪人悔改，在天上也要这样为他欢喜，较比为九十九个不用悔改的义人欢喜更大。

Have you ever met a just person who needs no repentance? Well, from God's perspective, the answer is no. But from the perspective of the individual, there are many people who, in many ways, think, "I'm a good person, I don't need to repent. I don't need Jesus, I don't need God," and therefore they go their own way. And some of them are nice people, and they help others, and they pay their taxes. It's just that they're ignoring God. And they're lost; they just don't know it.

你有没有碰到过不需要悔改的公义的人？从神的角度看，答案是没有。但从个人的角度看，有很多人觉得：“我就是个很好的人，我不需要悔改，我不需要耶稣。”因此他们走自己的路。有些人是非常好的人，乐于助人并正常缴税，但他们不理神，他们丧失了却不知道。

So, the question is, who are these "just people who need no repentance"? Well, they're like the Pharisees. They look at what's going on, they see Jesus with the sinners, and they mock him, and they mock them, and they say, "We're better than that. We're the just people, we don't need repentance." And so Jesus is saying here to the Pharisees, "You don't think you need repentance, but I'm going to tell you, I'm happier over those who are lost and are found than I am for you who pretend you're not lost."

这些人是谁？就是那些法利赛人和文士。他们看到耶稣和罪人在一起就嘲笑祂。他们说：“我们比他们强，我们是义人，不用悔改。”耶稣在这里对法利赛人说：“你们觉得不用悔改，但我告诉你们，我对那个丧失并被找回的人的欢喜，比对你们这些自以为不丧失的人的欢喜更大。”

How foolish for us to pretend that we're not lost, that we don't need the Savior. All of us are sinners, we all know it; we just pretend that we don't really care about that.

我们假装不丧失、不需要救主是多么愚蠢。所有人都是罪人，我们都知道，只是我们假装不关心而已。

The Lost Coin

Well, that's story number one. So what is story number two?

这是第一个故事。那么第二个故事是什么呢？

[Luke 15:8-10 NKJV]

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, "Rejoice with me, for

I have found the piece which I lost!' ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

第八至十节：或是一个女人有十块钱，若失落一块，岂不点上灯，打扫屋子，细细地找，直到找着吗？找着了，就请朋友邻舍来，对他们说：“我失落的那块钱已经找着了，你们和我一同欢喜吧！”我告诉你们，一个罪人悔改，在神的使者面前也是这样为他欢喜。

So this is another kind of lostness. This is a lostness of an inanimate coin. It's almost a picture of someone or something that's lost, who doesn't even know it. To whom is it important that this coin is lost? Well, not so much important to the coin, but certainly important to the one who **owns** the coin.

这是另外一种丢失。这是一块银钱的丢失，它描述了某人丧失了却不知道。这个银币丢失对谁重要呢？对银币不重要，但对拥有银币的人很重要。

And so this is a picture of the fact that the Lord Jesus reaches out to all people, even those who don't know they're lost. He reaches out to them and he hunts, he sweeps, he seeks diligently to find all who are lost. So this coin that is lost is like a sinner who repents.

主耶稣基督去接触所有丧失的人，即使是那些不知道自己丧失的人。祂会去寻找、打扫、细细地找，直到找到。这块失而复得的银币就像是一个悔改的罪人。

And again, the logic of the passage is that God loves you, God loves me, and God loves the sinners that we love, and he longs to see them saved. He will seek them, he will search for them, and you and I will pray that he will find them. The great need in all of us is to repent, to acknowledge we're sinners, to repent before the Lord.

这段话的逻辑是神爱你我，也爱我们所爱的罪人，祂渴望看到他们得救。祂会到处寻找他们，你我也要祷告主能找到那些丧失的人。我们所有人最大的需要就是悔改，在主面前承认我们是罪人。

Now many of the sinners, the publicans, tax collectors, those who were listening to it, they said, "That's me, I'm a sinner, I want to be a found coin." But the Pharisees and the scribes, they didn't say that. They didn't want to be found, and they weren't found. How tragic.

许多听道的罪人和税吏会说：“那就是我，我是个罪人，我想成为被找回的银币。”但法利赛人和文士不想被找到，他们也就没被找到。这是多么大的一个悲剧。

The Prodigal Son

And so these are the introductory stories, but the third story is about two sons, and that is the most important, the clearest story.

前面两个故事只是个引子，更重要的故事是关于两个儿子的，这是最清楚的故事。

[Luke 15:11-12 NKJV]

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.

第十一、十二节：耶稣又说：“一个人有两个儿子。小儿子对父亲说：‘父亲，请你把我应得的家业分给我。’他父亲就把产业分给他们。”

And as the story unfolds, we're going to find that one son is like these sinners that we read about in verse one. And the other son is like the Pharisees and scribes that we read about in verse two. And it's thrilling to me because the love of God is for **both groups**.

随着故事展开，我们会发现一个儿子像第一节讲到的罪人，而另一个儿子像第二节讲到的法利赛人。这让我感到惊奇，因为神的爱同时爱这两类人。

This seems like a pretty bad son to me. He basically says to his father, "Father, when you die, I'm going to get half of your wealth. And the problem is that you don't die very soon. I don't want to have to wait till you're an old man and I want to spend my inheritance now." He's basically saying to his father that I wish you were dead. "If you were dead, I'd have the money. And so I would rather have the money than you." He doesn't say it, but he almost says, "Dad, why don't you go out and die?"

对我来说，这是一个非常坏的儿子。他基本上是对父亲说：“等你死了，我会得到你一半的财产，但问题是你现在死不了，我不想等你老死，我现在就要钱。”他基本上是说我希望你死掉，他更关心钱超过关心父亲。他虽然没明说，但意思就是：“爸爸，你为什么不去死呢？”

Well, that would be a terrible thing to say to a father. But you know, many people—I guess it's true—all the people who reject God are saying the same thing to God. They're basically saying to God, "God, everything I've got is because you gave it to me. But frankly, I don't want you to be involved in my life anymore."

这对父亲来说是多么可怕的话。但实际上所有拒绝神的人都在对神说同样的话。他们基本上在说：“神啊，我知道我人生的一切都是你赐给我的，但我不想你在我的生命中占任何地位。”

[Luke 15:13 NKJV]

¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

第十三节：过了不多几日，小儿子就把他一切所有的都收拾起来，往远方去了。在那里任意放荡，浪费资财。

I just marvel; most people in the world today are happy with the gifts God has given them. They are complaining that he didn't give them more, and they never bother to give him thanks, or to give him the time of day. They just ignore him. And when things go wrong, they complain and say, "God, you should have given me more."

我感到惊奇，世界上大多数人对神赐给他们的恩赐感到满意，但他们抱怨神没给更多，从不感谢神，也不花时间陪神。他们只是忽略祂，当出问题时就抱怨说：“神啊，你应该给我更多的。”

In this story, how do you think the father felt about all this? Do you think he felt, "Boy, this guy, he's the salt of the earth. Because he's around, everything's better"? No, this boy wasn't behaving like the salt of the earth at all.

在这个故事里，你觉得父亲怎么想？你觉得父亲会觉得这孩子是“地上的盐”，因为他在周围一切都变好了吗？不，这孩子一点都不像地上的盐。

[Luke 15:14 NKJV]

¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

第十四节：既耗尽了一切所有的，又遇着那地方大遭饥荒，就穷苦起来。

I think it's probably true of every life. When we're younger, we basically have everything, and as we get older, we find that we've got big needs, big problems in life. I'm amazed how many people in youth get married. And then how many get divorced? Marriage doesn't solve every problem. More money doesn't solve every problem. More talent, more glory, doesn't solve every problem.

我想每个人的人生大概都是这样。年轻时我们拥有一切，但年纪长了，我们会发现人生有极大的需要和麻烦。我惊讶于有多少年轻人结婚，又有多少人离婚。婚姻不解决一切问题，更多的钱、才华或荣誉也解决不了一切。

I think it's true; most people end up in life with big heartaches. And the question is, what do you do when the big heartaches of life descend? Well, verse 15 and 16 explains how severe these heartaches became.

我知道大多数人在人生终结时会有极大的心痛。问题是，当心痛来临时，你会怎么做？第十五、十六节解释了这种心痛有多严重。

[Luke 15:15-16 NKJV]

¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

第十五、十六节：于是去投靠那地方的一个人；那人打发他到田里去放猪。他恨不得拿猪所吃的豆荚充饥，也没有人给他。

Is this a bad thing or a good thing? Well, it was certainly an unpleasant thing for this young man. But it was a good thing in the sense that he **came to his senses**.

这是好事还是坏事？对年轻人来说当然不愉快，但从他开始恢复理智这一点来看，这是件好事。

[Luke 15:17 NKJV]

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!"

第十七节：他醒悟过来，就说：“我父亲有多少的雇工，口粮有余，我倒在这里饿死吗？”

Very often bad times are good in the sense that they help us to think clearly. And this man says, "I was way better off when I was a son. Even the servants in my father's house were way better off than I am now."

通常糟糕的时光是有好处的，因为它们能帮助一个人清醒地思考。这儿子说：“我以前当儿子的时候情况好得多，甚至我父亲的雇工都比我现在好得多。”

Now I think there are many people in the world who end up thinking these thoughts.

我想世界上有很多人最后都会产生这样的想法。

[Luke 15:18-19 NKJV]

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

第十八、十九节：我要起来，到我父亲那里去，向他说：“父亲！我得罪了天，又得罪了你；从今以后，我不配称为你的儿子，把我当作一个雇工吧！”

Is that easy to do? Do you find it really easy to go to somebody and say, "I've got a problem. The problem is me. I was wrong, and I wronged you. I apologize to you"? And you know that doesn't happen very often, because it hasn't happened to you very often. Very rarely does someone come to you with a deep, sincere apology.

这容易做到吗？你觉得去找一个人说“我有问题，问题在于我，我错了，我伤害了你，我道歉”容易吗？你知道这不常发生，因为这种事很少发生在你身上，很少有人会带着深深的真诚向你道歉。

And therefore, don't be surprised if not many people go to God with a deep, sincere apology either. Now, Amir has just joined us. Welcome, Amir. Luke chapter 15. We're reading in verse number 18. Verse 18 is the key. He said, "I will arise and go to my father." How does a person become a Christian? How does a person get their sins forgiven? These questions are asked all the time, and there's many answers in scripture, but they all say the same thing.

所以，如果没有很多人去到神那里真诚地道歉，也不要感到奇怪。欢迎阿米尔，我们在学路加福音第十五章第十八节。第十八节是关键。他说：“我要起来到我父亲那里去。”一个人如何成为基督徒？如何让罪得赦免？这些问题被问过很多次，圣经里有很多答案，但都指向同一件事。

What happened to this boy's pride? Well, he lost it all. What did he decide to do? He said, "I'm going to tell my father I was wrong, but I want to be in his house." And that's how everyone becomes a Christian today. We go to the father, we say, "Lord, I was wrong, you were right, I want to be in your house, please."

这孩子的骄傲怎么了？他全丢了。他决定怎么做？他说：“我要告诉父亲我错了，但我想要在他的家里。”这就是今天每个人成为基督徒的方式。我们来到父神面前说：“父啊，我错了，您是对的，求您让我在您家里。”

And that's what I said when I became a Christian, and I believe if you become a Christian, you said something like that too. So I said, "Lord, I'm just a little boy, I'm a sinner, I know that. I don't want to go my way, I want to go your way. I want to go to your heaven, I don't

want you to punish me for my sins. Take away my sins, keep me from sin, I want to be in your house." That's what I said to God the night I got saved.

这就是我成为基督徒时所说的，我相信如果你成为基督徒，你也说过类似的话。我说：“主啊，我只是个小男孩，是个罪人。我不想走自己的路，我想走您的路。我想去您的天堂，不想被惩罚。除掉我的罪，保佑我远离罪，我想在您的家里。”这就是我得救那天晚上对神说的。

I want you to note that there were two phases to this. Verse 18: "I will arise and go to my father." Verse 20: "And he arose and came to his father." There are a lot of people in life who say, "I should do that, I plan to do that, I will do that," it's just they never get around to it.

我要提醒大家有两个步骤。第十八节：“我要起来。”第二十条：“于是起来。”人生中有许多说“我应该做、我计划做、我会做”的人，但他们就是从未付诸行动。

Is there anything in your life that you know you should do, but you just haven't done it? That's a very real personal and powerful question. If you know you should do it, you **should do it**. Do it.

你的人生中有没有明明知道该做却还没做的事？这是一个非常个人且有力量问题。如果你知道该做，你就应该去做。去做吧。

You'll remember the story when the angel came to Joseph in the middle of the night.

大家还记得天使在半夜来到约瑟那里的故事。

[Matthew 2:13 NKJV]

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

天使对约瑟说：“约瑟，你要带小孩子和他母亲逃往埃及，因为希律要寻找小孩子，要除灭祂。”

So what did Joseph do? Well, if it had been me, I would have said, "Lord, it's the middle of the night, I'll get up in the morning, I'll have a good breakfast, and I'll go to Egypt." Or would you say as Joseph did, "I'm going to get up right now; I know it's the middle of the night, and frankly, I'm dog tired. I'm going to get up right now." And then they went to Egypt. He woke up Mary, he woke up the child, and they went.

约瑟是怎么做的？如果是我的话，我会说：“主啊，现在是半夜，我明天早起吃顿好的早餐再走。”但约瑟说：“我现在就起来。”尽管是半夜且非常疲惫，他还是起来叫醒马利亚和孩子，立刻动身去了埃及。

So what do you do when that happens to you? Something like that happened to me last night. I went to bed, I was sound asleep. And then the phone rang. I looked at my watch, it said it's midnight. I was tired. So I said, "Well, what should I do? Should I just ignore the call? Or should I speak to him and say, 'Listen, it's midnight, call me tomorrow?'" But I thought, you know, I really should speak to this man. So I answered the call. We had a long conversation. I believe it was a valuable conversation. In part, it was about the Lord Jesus Christ.

如果这种事发生在你身上，你会怎么做？昨晚我就遇到了类似的事。我上床睡熟了，电话响了，那是半夜十二点。我很累。我想：“我是该不理它，还是告诉他明天再打？”但我想到我确实该和这人谈谈，于是我接了电话。我们谈了很久，那是一次很有价值的谈话，其中涉及到了主耶稣基督。

So I guess I'm encouraged by this story. This young man said, "I am going to do it," and he did it.

今天我非常受鼓励，因为这个年轻人说他准备去做，而且他确实做了。

[Luke 15:20 NKJV]

²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

第二十章：于是起来，往他父亲那里去。相离还远，他父亲看见，就动了怜悯之心，跑去抱着他的颈项，连连与他亲嘴。

"A far way off," the father saw him. Have you ever noticed that you tend to see what you're looking for? You can train your eye to see things you're looking for. You can also train your eye to not see things you're not looking for. You'll note that when you're driving your car. You'll note that when you lost something in the house and you're trying to find it.

“相离还远”，父亲就看见了他。你有没有注意到你通常会看到你正在寻找的东西？你可以训练眼睛去看你想看的，也可以训练眼睛忽略你不想看的。当你开车或在家里找东西时，你会发现这是真的。

That's true of God. In this sense, that God prioritizes what he's looking for. And he is looking. I think it's true from the book of Chronicles, this verse.

神也是如此。神会将祂要看的东西放在优先地位。祂在寻找。我想历代志里的这节经文说明了这一点。

[2 Chronicles 16:9 NKJV]

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

耶和華的眼目遍察全地，要顯大能幫助向祂心存誠實的人。

When God is looking at people, who does he seek? He sees in the crowd the man, the woman, whose heart is perfect toward him. You want to be noticed by God? Set your heart to go toward him. This man did. One day, probably years after he saw his son last, he saw his son at the gate.

當神看人時，祂在尋求誰？祂在人群中尋找那些內心向祂完全的人。你想要引起神的注意嗎？那就把心轉向祂。就像這個人一樣，也許在多年未見之後，有一天父親在大門口看到了他的兒子。

So the father saw him. Number two, he had compassion. Number three, he **ran**. Okay, that's very good. We often think God's not in a hurry. He's in a hurry. He loves us. And he will run to help you. When he got there, he fell on his neck and kissed him.

父親看見了他；第二，動了憐憫之心；第三，他跑了過去。這很好。我們常以為神不着急，其實祂很急，祂愛我們，祂會跑來幫助你。當祂趕到時，祂抱著兒子的頸項連連親吻。

God loves us. He wants to have a very close relationship with us. He didn't say, "Look, he's running back, let him wait a while, rest a bit, and then I'll feed him." He fell on his neck and kissed him. Amen. That's a very encouraging verse.

神愛我們，祂想和我們建立非常親密的關係。祂沒有說：“看，他跑回來了，讓他晾一會兒，休息下再給他飯吃。”祂直接抱著他的頸項親吻。阿們。這是一節非常受鼓勵的經文。

[Luke 15:21 NKJV]

²¹ And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son."

第二十一節，兒子說：“父親！我得罪了天，又得罪了你；從今以後，我不配稱為你的兒子。”

Is that what he planned to say? Oh yes, but it's only half of what he planned to say. What he planned to say, verse 19, ended with this: "Make me like one of your hired servants." But his father cut him off. He never did get to that part of the line. It was not his father's intent to make him like a hired servant. It was his father's intent to restore him as a son.

这是他计划要说的吗？是的，但只是他计划的一半。在第十九节里，他原本打算说：“把我当作一个雇工吧。”但父亲打断了他，他没能说出下半句。父亲的意思不是要把他变成雇工，而是要恢复他儿子的地位。

So I think when you get discouraged, I often think of this story. And I say, "Lord, you know, I did something foolish. I made lots of mistakes. But I look at this story and I say, 'Jesus still loves me, hallelujah!'"

当你灰心丧气时，我常会看这个故事。我会说：“主啊，我做了很多愚蠢的事，犯了很多错。但我回头看这故事，我说：‘主耶稣仍然爱我，哈利路亚！’”

The father cut the son off; he didn't let him go on to talk about being a hired servant.

父亲打断了儿子的话，没让他继续说想当雇工。

[Luke 15:22-24 NKJV]

²² "But the father said to his servants, "Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

第二十二至二十四节：父亲却吩咐仆人说：“把那上好的袍子快拿出来给他穿；把戒指戴在他指头上；把鞋穿在他脚上；把那肥牛犊牵来宰了，我们可以吃喝快乐；因为我这个儿子是死而复活，失而又得的。”他们就快乐起来。

Have you noticed that when you return to God, you always get far more than you were contemplating? And God says, "You come back to me and I will give you what you want, but I'll give you far more." That's the story of the Christian life. When I came to the Lord Jesus, I expected that he was going to help me a little bit. He helped me a whole lot more than I ever thought I was going to be helped. And so I say, "Praise the Lord."

你有没有注意到，当你回到神身边时，得到的总是远超你的思索？神说：“你回到我这里，我会给你想要的，甚至给你更多。”这就是基督徒人生的故事。当我来到耶稣面前时，我只指望祂帮我一点点，结果祂帮我的远超我的想象。所以我说：“赞美主。”

Verse 24 ends with, "And they began to be merry." When did they stop being merry? When did the father stop rejoicing in the fact that the son came back? No, it hasn't happened yet. When did the son stop being happy that he came back? Hasn't happened yet. What about the servants? Were they happy that the son came back? The answer is yep, they're still happy.

第二十四节末尾说：“他们就快乐起来。”他们什么时候停止快乐了？父亲什么时候停止因儿子回来而喜乐了？还没有。儿子什么时候停止因回来而高兴了？也没有。仆人们呢？他们依然在欢喜。

So sometimes I think about some people who became Christians when they came to 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel. And when I think about it, I get happy all over again. It's true; I was happy when it happened 60 years ago and my friend Doug became a Christian. Well, that was 60 years ago; I'm still happy. And he's still happy. And when we get to heaven, we're going to continue to be happy.

有时我想到那些在第16街福音教会成为基督徒的人，我就再次高兴起来。六十年前我的朋友道格（Doug）成为基督徒时我就很高兴，六十年后的今天我依然高兴。他也依然高兴。等我们去了天堂，我们会继续高兴下去。

The Older Brother

[Luke 15:25 NKJV]

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

第二十五节：那时，大儿子正在田里。他回来，离家不远，听见作乐跳舞的声音。

So this story begins with two people. In verse 1, we have the tax collectors and the sinners. And in verse 2, we have the Pharisees and the scribes. And this younger son that we've been reading about, he is like the sinners and the tax collectors. He realized he was a sinner and he came back to God. But this next older son, verse 25, he's like the Pharisees and the scribes.

故事开头提到两类人：第一节有税吏和罪人，第二节有法利赛人和文士。小儿子就像税吏和罪人，他意识到自己是罪人并回到神面前。而第二十五节的大儿子就像法利赛人和文士。

[Luke 15:26 NKJV]

²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

第二十六节，他便叫一个仆人来，问是什么事。

Is that what you would have done? No, I don't think so. I would have gone to my father and I would have said, "Hey Dad, what's going on? Sounds like we got a party going here. What's

happening?" This older brother didn't really have a very good relationship with his father, because he had to ask what was going on from a servant.

你会这样做吗？我想不会。我会去找父亲问：“爸爸，发生什么了？听起来有个聚会？”大儿子跟他父亲的关系不怎么亲密，因为他必须去问仆人发生了什么。

There are many people in the world who've gotten religion. They might even say they're Christians. But they don't have a close relationship with God the Father or God the Son.

世界上很多人有宗教信仰，甚至自称是基督徒，但他们与父神或子神没有亲密的关系。

[Luke 15:27 NKJV]

²⁷ And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf."

第二十七节，仆人说：“你兄弟来了。你父亲因为得他平安无事地回来，把肥牛犊宰了。”

He basically said, "Come on in, we're having a party. And the calf is killed and it's going to be a scrumptious meal. Come on in."

仆人基本上是说：“快进来，我们有个派对，宰了牛犊，有顿大餐，快进来吧。”

[Luke 15:28 NKJV]

²⁸ "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him."

第二十八节，大儿子却生气，不肯进去；他父亲就出来劝他。

That's like the Pharisees. We read about them all through the Gospels. All the good things that are happening, and the Pharisees are always critical. At least they can pretend to find fault. And an amazing thing about this older brother: he didn't love his father, and he didn't love his brother.

这就像法利赛人。在福音书中我们常看到法利赛人对各种美事挑剔，或者假装找错。关于大儿子有一件惊人的事：他不爱父亲，也不爱弟弟。

Our responsibility in life is to rejoice at the good things that God does. And when God does things that makes him happy, you and I say, "I'm going to be happy with those things." And when God does things that makes our brothers and sisters happy, we say, "I'm going to be

happy with those things." Don't be the critic. You be the one who rejoices with those who rejoice. You be the one who weeps with those who weep.

我们人生的责任就是因神所作的美事而喜乐。当神做了一些让祂自己高兴的事，或者让我们的弟兄姊妹高兴的事，你我也要为此高兴。不要当批判者，要与喜乐的人同乐，与哀哭的人同哭。

[Romans 12:15 NKJV]

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

与喜乐的人要同乐，与哀哭的人要同哭。

What is the message of the Bible? Well, basically, it's the father pleading with men and women, boys and girls like you and me, pleading with us and saying, "Come on in, I want you to come to my party."

圣经传递的信息是什么？基本上就是父神在劝导男女老少，像你我这样的人，劝我们说：“进来吧，我想让你来参加我的欢宴。”

In the last chapter we studied, chapter 14, the people made excuses so they didn't have to go to the party.

在上一章我们学到，人们找借口不去参加宴会。

[Luke 14:18 NKJV]

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused."

众人一口同音地推辞。头一个说：“我买了一块地，必须去看看。请你准我辞了。”

In this case, the brother complains and says, "I don't want to party with a brother. My brother did something bad. I won't forgive him. I don't even want to go to his party." The father loved the older son. The father loved the younger son. The older son didn't love anybody but himself. So shame on him.

在这个案例中，哥哥抱怨说：“我不想跟弟弟一起聚会，他做了坏事，我不原谅他，我甚至不想去他的派对。”父亲爱大儿子，也爱小儿子，但大儿子除了自己谁也不爱。他应该感到羞愧。

All right, well, our time is gone again. And so we're going to stop in the middle of the story. We always stop in the middle of the story. Keep coming back. Again tonight, we saw much about the love of our father. Praise the Lord, God is love.

时间到了，我们又要在故事中间停下来。我们总是停在故事中间，请继续回来。今晚我们再次看到了天父的爱，要赞美主，神就是爱。

[1 John 4:8 NKJV]

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

没有爱心的，就不认识神，因为神就是爱。

Closing Prayer

So let's pray. Lord, we want to thank you that you are a loving God. You're even a forgiving God. And you listen to the heart of those who are grieved and say, "I'm sorry, I did it wrong. I want to come back to you." Help us, Lord, to be humble and to be repentant. And continue, we pray, to invite us back to your party. And so we thank you for these stories, and we pray that we might learn from them and live by them. And we ask these things now in Jesus' name and give thanks. Amen.

我们来祷告。主啊，我们要感谢您是一位慈爱的神，甚至是赦免人的神。您垂听那些忧伤之人的心，他们说：“对不起，我做错了，我要回到您这里。”主啊，求您帮助我们谦卑悔改，并祈求您继续邀请我们进入您的欢宴。我们感谢这些故事，祈求我们能从中学习并靠此生活。我们奉耶稣的名祈求并感恩，阿们。

So again, thank you for tonight. Look forward to seeing you next week. And if you're able, on Zoom, maybe tomorrow, in person or Zoom, good to see you. God bless us all.

再次感谢今晚，期待下周见到你们。如果可以的话，明天在Zoom上，或者见面或Zoom，很高兴见到你们。愿神祝福我们。