



Sermon Notes

Topic: Love of the Father

Bible Passage: Luke 15: 17-24

Preacher: Ps Paul Curtis

Date: Sunday 16th November 2025

Study Guide Overview

- God the Father's heart is *always focused on us* – his eyes never leave us.
- God the Father's heart is *always full of compassion towards us*.
- God the Father's heart is *always impatient for our return*.
- God the Father's heart is *always ready to forgive* – if we are willing to confess
- God the Father's heart is *always wanting to celebrate our return*.

Small Group Questions/Discussions

The son's request to receive an early inheritance is something that we might pass over very quickly. But in that culture, it was like saying Dad, I wish you were dead and meaning it. How does the significance of this help you to see the depth of God's love displayed in this parable?

Is this series "Big Questions" we've looked at topics which seem to put God's character under the microscope. Is He really a God of love if He allows suffering etc. On Sunday we suggested that the problem lies with our inability to fully understand. Do you agree and how does this effect the way we might question God like Job did?

Many people see God differently in the OT compared to the life of Jesus in the NT. Go online and read Hosea 11:8-9 and Jeremiah 31:20 in the Message translation. What can we see of God's heart through the words of these two prophets? Does it align with your concept of God? Does it align with what we know of Jesus in the NT?

Go through **each of the sermon points above**, and while considering the deep hurt that the father must have been experiencing, share;

1. what this truth means to you
2. how does it change the way you respond to God and his call on your life "to come home"
3. why you might struggle to accept this truth in your own life