

## The Runaway Returns Luke 15:17-21

### Setting Up the Story

- In Luke 15, Jesus is telling three parables to explain that He is hanging out with sinners because He has come to \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the Parable of the Prodigal Son ...
  - The Prodigal Son represents \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The older son represents the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The father represents \_\_\_\_\_.

**The BIG Question** ... Do you believe that God is \_\_\_\_\_?

**The BIG Idea** ... God \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 86:15 ...

### The Prodigal's Awareness

- He remembers his \_\_\_\_\_.
- "How many of my father's \_\_\_\_\_ have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger."
- Application: When you find yourself doubting God's goodness, look into the \_\_\_\_\_ of your life—and you will see evidences of his goodness. 1 Corinthians 15:10; Lamentations 3:21-23 ...

### The Prodigal's Repentance

- He decides to go home because \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ him of everything.
- "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."
- He believes that although he has been far from his father's \_\_\_\_\_, he has not been far from his father's \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Has my sin \_\_\_\_\_ my father's heart toward me? Is the \_\_\_\_\_ I've brought upon him too much for him? Have I done too much, gone too far, been away for too long? Have I reached the \_\_\_\_\_ of my father's goodness?" Titus 3:4-5 ...

### The Father's Goodness

- It keeps the Prodigal \_\_\_\_\_.
- Romans 2:4, "Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"
- When the father sees his son, it isn't \_\_\_\_\_ that he feels; it's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Psalm 86:5; John 3:17 ...
- The father doesn't just run to his son; he is \_\_\_\_\_ to his son, to \_\_\_\_\_ his son.
- In that culture, the town elders would've forced this son to sit outside the city gates and endure a weeks-long \_\_\_\_\_.
- He races to his son, to walk back into town with his son—\_\_\_\_\_ him from the \_\_\_\_\_ that would be heaped on him. Isaiah 53:5; John 19:30; Ephesians 2:8-9 ...
- The death of Jesus proves that He is more willing to \_\_\_\_\_ us than we are willing to \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Takeaway

When you get how deeply you are \_\_\_\_\_ by God, you will possess the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. 1 John 3:1; Ephesians 5:1-2 ... As God's children, it's His love that we \_\_\_\_\_; and by his grace and for his glory, it's His love that we \_\_\_\_\_.