

For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found. –Luke 15:24

The Challenge of Fatherhood – a balancing act

- Discipline and mercy
- Instruction and patience
- How do you instruct, correct, discipline and mold character while showing love, mercy, grace and forgiveness?
- Why it's important: balance teaches righteousness is required and must be worked towards but must be balanced to avoid discouragement (Eph 6:4, Col 3:21)



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God is the perfect father

- His parenting is always perfectly in balance – love, mercy, patience perfectly in balance with justice and righteousness (Rom 3:21-26)

Why won't you repent?



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God Wants To Forgive You

The father waited and watched for
his son to return (20)

- He celebrated his return (22-23)
- He considered him dead, but
never gave up (24)



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God Wants To Forgive You

God has always and is always looking
for His people to repent

- He wants to withhold punishment (Jer 26:3, 36:3)
- He wants to restore, heal and forgive (Hos 14:1-4)
- He patiently calls for and seeks repentance (Is 65:2, Jon 3:10-4:2)
- He is not willing that any should perish and is patient because of His desire to forgive (2 Pet 3:9)



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God Wants To Forgive You

Repent, because God wants to
nothing more than to forgive
you (Luke 15:7, 10)



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You Must Decide To Repent

The son had to come to himself and
make own decision to return (17-20)

- The father did not come and drag his son home, though he was anxious for his safe return
- The son had to look at own life and see condition truly (13-17)
- The son had to realize he was not too far to return



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You Must Decide To Repent

God waits for you, but you must
decide to repent

- God won't drag you out of sin. He will allow you to continue in it (Rom 1:18-32)
- You must see the fruitlessness of your sin (Eccl 2:10-11, Rom 6:19-21)
- Whatever sin you need to repent of, you are not too far to repent. His grace is sufficient (Is 1:18-20, Eph 2:1-7, 1:7)



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You Must Decide To Repent

Your sin profits you nothing.
God won't come and take your
sin away from you. You must
take yourself from your sin. No
sin is greater than His grace



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You Must Submit to God

The son recognized his father was right and returned to service

- He returned with the intent to serve (17-19)
- He returned in full submission to father's rule and also resigned himself to physical consequences. Now he is wholly dependent on his father (12-13, 31)



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You Must Submit to God

You must return with a heart to serve

- Repentance means submitting to God's rule (Jam 4:7, 1 Cor 6:9-11, Rom 12:1-2)
- Repent with intent to serve – no other way (Rom 6:15-18, Phil 2:5-7, 12-15)
- May still have earthly consequences but gain from relationship with Christ is greater than what we give up and present suffering (Rom 8:18, Matt 16:25-26, Heb 11:24-26)



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You Must Submit to God

It is only true repentance if you
return with submission and
intend to serve God and
surrender to His will



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- Is there sin in your life separating you from God?
- Whether you are God's child already or have not yet been adopted by Him, you must repent of your sin
- Why won't you repent?
 - God is waiting for you and wants to forgive you
 - You must take the step to move away from sin and towards Him
 - You must be prepared to submit to His will and serve Him

