**Luke 15**

**God’s Heart for Us**

**February 17th, 2019**

1. **God Retrieves**

God, driven by his desire to have the lost returned to him, initiates a relentless and shameless search to find them and bring them home.

*God relentlessly and shamelessly sought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out, driven by his desire to get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ back home with him***.**

1. **God Restores**

God’s love is only satisfied when those he has retrieved from being dead in sin are restored to full status as his children who he addresses as ‘my child’.

*Whether \_\_\_\_\_\_ was a self-righteous prig, a silly wandering sheep, a coin ignorant of being lost, or had willfully turned from God, he fully restored\_\_\_\_\_\_ as his beloved child.*

1. **God Rejoices**

God proudly calls upon all heaven to share in his joy of having his beloved children back from sin’s death grip, back home into his arms.

*God sings over \_\_\_\_\_\_ with Joy, proudly calling on all to join in his joy of having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ back home with him as his beloved child****.***

1. **God Requests**

Although God initiates his relentless pursuit to retrieve what he has lost, rather than forcing them he instead pleads with an aching heart for them to willingly ‘come home’.

Father God, whose heart aches for his lost child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, pleads with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to respond to his desire and love for them, to make his joy complete by coming home.

**Summary**: God’s heart is for us; he wants to retrieve us from sin to restore us as his children because of his love for us and the joy it brings him.

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**Questions**

1. John 6:44 ‘No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.’ How does knowing that God relentlessly and shamelessly sought you out to retrieve you to himself make you feel?
2. 1st John 3:1 ‘See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!’
3. How does being fully restored to a relationship with Father God as his child make you feel?
4. How is it helpful to feel this in the midst of broken or strained relationships?
5. What are the practical benefits of being the Heavenly Father’s child?
6. Which of these are you availing yourself of today?
7. Zephaniah 3:17 ‘The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.’ How do you feel knowing Father God’s joy over you is over the top?
8. How did God plead with you to come home? What were the circumstances, people, scriptures, etc. through whom Father worked to call you home?
9. In the past many have experienced the devastating impact of things like loneliness, failure, or rejection, things which have shaped or misshaped their identity, their feelings about themselves. These things can tie people in knots and hold then down or back for their entire lives. How can the knowledge of God’s heart for us, what he thinks and feels about us liberate us from the negativity of these past experiences to live life to the full as he intends?

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