

25 DAYS OF BLESSINGS

Part 3: A Father's Heart

NOT AN EASY JOB

- A much maligned role (warranted and unwarranted)
 1. The ratio of single moms to dads is high
 2. Fatherhood - the most attacked and least celebrated
 3. A challenging role to navigate - clarity is seemingly harder to come by
- Fatherhood is a God-ordained role
 1. Styles may vary but the heart of fatherhood is what is most important *(Luke 1:17 NKJ)*

JESUS REVEALED THE FATHER'S HEART *(Luke 15:11-24 NKJ)*

- A heart to give
 1. This whole parable was the antithesis of Jewish thought
 2. The younger son asked for his inheritance before the father died
 3. The father divided his goods and the son cashed out and left
- The freedom to chose
 1. The father did not force the son to stay
 2. He did not go after the son and stop him from wasting the money
 3. He did not beg the son to come home
- A heart of compassion
 1. The father kept looking for the son to return
 2. After the son moved toward home the father moved towards the son
 3. Allowed the child to repent but restored him to his place as a son
- An understanding of the big picture
 1. The son's life and past were not celebrated
 2. The restoration of relationship was the most important thing

A FATHER'S HEART; A NEVER ENDING PROCESS

- A heart to provide
 1. This is a God-ordained desire
 2. More than money - protection, security, direction and encouragement *(1 Thess. 2:11 NKJ)*
- A willingness to establish parameters
 1. Setting boundaries and order
 2. When done in a godly way it can bring peace to a home
- A heart of compassion
 1. Never stop looking for your children
 2. Willingness to forgive and restore
 3. Willingness to express love and acceptance
- Celebrating what's right
 1. The relationship is the most valued thing - loving them without celebrating their lifestyle
 2. The biggest celebration is for when the relationship with God is there *(Luke 15:7 NKJ)*