



YOUR  
FAILURE  
IS NOT  
FINAL

## Part 4: The Father's Embrace

### Sermon Big Idea

There are two other characters in the parable of the prodigal son; the father, and the older brother. Jesus shifts the parable to focus on how the father embraces, restores, and blesses his wayward son when he returns. But then Jesus goes one step further, and contrasts the behaviour of the older son, who was physically present with his father, but just as relationally distant.

But here's the bottom line: **No one is beyond the reach of God's love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, and redemption.**

### Discussion Questions

1. How does it feel when we apologize to someone and they respond with grace and love? Why is this so refreshing and healing to us?
2. Read Luke 15:20-24. What is the significance of the father giving his son the robe, ring, sandals, and throwing a party? What is the father trying to accomplish by doing these things?
3. Jesus doesn't tell us how the son responded to his father restoring his identity and blessing him with the celebration. How do you think the son responded? How would you respond if that was you?
4. Read Luke 15:25-30. What stands out to you in what the older brother says to his father? Have you ever felt like the older brother and had difficulty celebrating something good in someone else's life?
5. Read Luke 15:4-10. What is the point that Jesus is making in these first two parables?
6. Jesus told these three parables in response to the Pharisees and Religious leaders. Read Luke 15:1-3, then focus in on verses 7, 10, & 32. How does Jesus silence the criticism of the Religious Leaders?
7. If the Pharisees and Religious leaders were a character in the parable of the lost son, who would they be? What is Jesus trying to teach them?
8. What step do you need to take to secure your identity in Jesus, and to move forward to become who Jesus is calling you to be?

### Scripture Passages

Luke 15: 20-32

Jesus continues to tell the parable of the lost son, focusing on the father's response and the contrast with the older brother.

Luke 15: 1-3

Jesus is questioned by the Pharisees and Religious Leaders about spending time with sinners and tax collectors.

Luke 15: 4-10

Jesus tells two parables about a lost sheep and a lost coin before the parable of the lost son.

### Definitions

Mercy is to withhold a punishment that is deserved.

Grace is to give favour that is not deserved.