

“God Loves You”

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Introduction

- For a couple of weeks we're going to examine our prayer lives
- “The Prayer of the Righteous” by Mark Templer
- Read highlighted portions from pages 13-15
- Pray

I. God is Running Through the Fields

- **Luke 15:3-6** (paint a picture of a man running through a muddy field)
- This is God running after you. He loves you that much. This is who God is.
- Q. How did your experiences growing up shape your view of God?
- God is not distant, aloof, or disinterested. He is not angry & short-tempered.
- Q. How is your view of God different (or still the same) now as a disciple?
- Whenever I think about how much someone loves me it draws me to them
- Talk about how God came running after me
- Q. How did God come running after you?

II. God is Crawling on His Knees

- **Luke 15:8-10** (paint a picture of a woman rummaging around for a coin)
- This is how God humbled & dirtied himself to save one lost soul – you!
- **Psalm 40:1-4** (Q. From what mud/mire did God save you?)
- Sometimes we can still feel distant, ashamed, guilty. We put on a mask.
- Q. Why does this happen? (either a guilty/unforgiven conscience or “guilt”)
- **Psalm 66:17-20** (We may just need to get open with the sin in our life)
- Q. Do you try to ‘earn’ forgiveness? Does it work?
- Q. Are you afraid of rejection or ‘no’ that it makes it hard to pray?
 - o Luke 18:1-8, Daniel 10:2-3, 12-19

III. God is Throwing Open His Arms

- **Luke 15:11-32**
- Q. In what ways were you like the prodigal son?
- Q. Describe the father's love for his son (unconditional, looking 4 him, forgiving)
- Q. Do you see God this way? Q. Why not? (God is not like other people)
- Q. In what ways are you like the older son?
 - o Attitudes, bitterness, envy toward God/our brothers
 - o **Matthew 5:23-24; I Peter 3:7**
 - o Is there any sin/bad relationship that is worth your soul?

Close

- Let's all work on having a spiritual/accurate view of God
 - o Take some time and write a letter about your upbringing and how it affected your view of God. Share it with your discipler/spouse.
- Make some decision/commitments regarding your prayer life
 - o Begin some life-long habits over the next 7 days.
- Pray