

Heart of the Father



**“Does Westwood Church have
the Father’s heart?”**

Luke 15:1-32



**“Going...and making disciples”
is a central part of Westwood’s
vision.**



But why is it important?



If I look diligently for lost or misplaced items of value, how much more valuable are people?



“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.



Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'



**I tell you that in the same way
there will be more rejoicing in
heaven over one sinner who
repents than over ninety-nine
righteous persons who do not
need to repent.**



“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”



And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'



In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:3-10).



Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.



“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living (Luke 15:11-13).



After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.



He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything (Luke 15:14-16).



**“When he came to his senses,
he said, ‘How many of my
father’s hired men have food to
spare, and here I am starving to
death! I will set out and go back
to my father and say to him:**



Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ So he got up and went to his father. (Luke 15:17-20).



“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.



“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it.



**Let's have a feast and celebrate.
For this son of mine was dead
and is alive again; he was lost
and is found.' So they began to
celebrate (Luke 15:20-24).**



“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.



**‘Your brother has come,’ he
replied, ‘and your father has
killed the fattened calf because
he has him back safe and
sound.’**



“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.



Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ (Luke 15:25-30).



“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found (Luke 15:31-32).



**So what are we to do with this
lavish love God has for us?**



Receive it!



Live it!



Possible Action Steps

1. Pray that God would grow your own heart to be more like His.
2. Ask forgiveness if you have treated others as less worthy of God's love.
3. Ask God to provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate God's love to at least one person who is in need of it this coming week.

