

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.’” “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’”
Luke 15:17-21 (NLT)

Love And Compassion

How will you be able to show love and compassion to others? That is a very good question, especially to ask me. **Why is that?** Showing love and compassion to others has not been one of my strongest points. Showing love and compassion to others does not come naturally to me. **That, at least, is a good starting point.** What is a good starting point? **Knowing that you need help to be able to show love and compassion to others is a good starting point. Do you think that you will, by your own efforts, be able to show love and compassion to others? Will your love and compassion for others ever be enough, or even adequate? Do you think it is your love and compassion that I would like you to show to others?** Now, I don't know what to think or say. **That's alright, you can listen.** I will do that. **Have I shown my love and compassion to you?** You have lavishly shown you love and compassion to me. I am living my entire life now and forever under your love and compassion. Your love and compassion have changed the entire course of my life. Your love and compassion turned my life around and rescued me from a life without you. It is your love and compassion that helped me to turn away from my life of sin in the world to live and walk in a new and intimate relationship with you. You are now my Savior and Lord. There was a celebration in heaven when I gave my life to you. **That is all true. That is all correct. So, my love and compassion are being lavishly given to you. You could say that your life is overflowing with my love and compassion.** That is exactly what I would and can say. **That is very good. Now, I have a few questions for you.** I'm still listening. **Will you allow my love and compassion for you to spill out of your life to others? Will you allow my love and compassion to flow in and through your life to others? Will you love others with my love? Will you show others the same compassion that I have shown to you?** Yes, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I am not worthy to be called your son. I have done nothing to earn or deserve your favor. Attempting to do so would be foolishness. Yet, you have demonstrated your love and compassion to me. You have forgiven me and accepted me as your child. Amen

The Compassionate Life *Filled With Compassion*

"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. "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.

NIV Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Filled With Love And Compassion*

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'" "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

NLT Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Filled With Compassion*

But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

NRSV Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Moved With Pity And Tenderness*

Then when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father have enough food, and [even food] to spare, but I am perishing (dying) here of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; [just] make me like one of your hired servants. So he got up and came to his [own] father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity and tenderness [for him]; and he ran and embraced him and kissed him [fervently].

AMP Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Felt Compassion*

"But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

NASB Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Felt Compassion*

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

ESV Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Had Compassion*

But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

NKJV Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *His Heart Pounding*

"That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father. "When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him.

MSG Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Filled With Loving Pity*

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired men have food enough and to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man.' " "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming, and was filled with loving pity and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

TLB Luke 15:17-20

The Compassionate Life *Felt Sorry*

When he realized what he was doing, he thought, 'All of my father's servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger. I will leave and return to my father and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but let me be like one of your servants.'" ' So the son left and went to his father. "While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him and hugged and kissed him.

NCV Luke 15:17-20

Filled With Love And Compassion Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Compassionate Life – Luke 15:17-21

In Context: *Read Luke 15*

Begin With Prayer: ***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' Luke 15:17-21 (NLT)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"When he finally came to his senses, | he said to himself, | 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, | and here I am dying of hunger! | I will go home to my father and say, | "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, | and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. | Please take me on as a hired servant."' | "So he returned home to his father. | And while he was still a long way off, | his father saw him coming. | Filled with love and compassion, | he ran to his son, | embraced him, | and kissed him. | His son said to him, | 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, | and I am no longer worthy | of being called your son.' Luke 15:17-21 (NLT)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I am not worthy to be called your son. I have done nothing to earn or deserve your favor. Attempting to do so would be foolishness. Yet, you have demonstrated your love and compassion to me. You have forgiven me and accepted me as your child. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

What caused you to come to your senses, turn from your sin, and receive Christ as your Savior and Lord?

When have you tried to formulate a speech asking the Lord to forgive you of your sin?

Why would trying to earn or deserve the Lord's favor be a foolish endeavor on your part?

Why would trying to earn or deserve the Lord's favor be a sinful effort on your part?

How has the Lord demonstrated His love and compassion to you, even though you are unworthy of it?

How encouraging is it to know that there was a celebration in heaven when you turned your life over to the Lord?

How has the entire course of your life changed as you have received Christ as your Savior and Lord?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be loving and compassionate towards others just as the Lord has been to you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord is filled with love and compassion for you.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has demonstrated His love and compassion to you.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you be filled with love and compassion for others just as the Lord has been for you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, thank you for being filled with love and compassion for me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I be filled with love and compassion for others today?
