

## **Questions from the Sermon**

### **December 13, 2020**

1. Which Christmas Carol do you enjoy the most each Christmas? Why?  
(Sorry, you can only pick one, or in some cases, you have to pick one..)
2. What Christmas present do you remember receiving growing up?  
-What made it so memorable?

Memories are often a wonderful part of Christmas. They remind us of 'home', and times and people that are important to us.

### **Read Luke 15:11-24**

3. Put yourself in the younger son's shoes (sandals). What do you think you would be feeling and thinking as you got closer and closer to home?  
  
-Why do you think the younger son would have been apprehensive and maybe a bit fearful? What often causes us to feel this way?
4. Try and imagine you are the Father in this story. What do you think you would be feeling when you saw your son a distance off? (try to be honest)  
  
-What do we parents often think is the most important thing we need to do when our kids have disobeyed or done something that has disappointed us?  
  
-Does reading about this Father's response change your thinking about what is most important?
5. Knowing that 'running' was seen as such a degrading and unacceptable action for a dignified Jewish man at that time, why do you think the Father chose to run anyway?  
  
-How do you think this would have made the son feel seeing his Father running toward him? What do you think he would have expected was the reason?
6. What message do you think the Father was trying to make to his younger son?
7. Doesn't the Father's decision to have a party seem a bit over the top? Why do you think Jesus made that part of the story?
8. If you were sitting in the audience that day, listening to Jesus tell this story, what ending would you have expected when the son came home?  
  
-How do you think this ending made the Notorious sinners and tax collectors feel?  
-How do you think this ending made the Pharisees feel?

9. Why does this ending of the younger son's return seem so unjust and unacceptable to us?
10. What other examples can you think of that make us feel like God's response to us is unfair and unjust?

**Read Hebrews 4:14-17**

11. What does the Writer of Hebrews mean when he says in verse 14...  
“.. who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”?  
  
-Why is this statement so important about Jesus?
12. How important is it to us that Jesus can ‘sympathize’ with us?  
  
-How do we see this showing up in the story of the younger son in Luke 15?
13. How does this allow us to “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace..”?