





Our Merciful Father

Luke 15:11-32



Our Merciful Father

Gives us free will (12)

- His father let him go
- His heart was already gone
 - God will “*give us up*” to our own desires
 - Rom. 1:21-28
- God waits for us, hopes for us, and desires us...
... but He will not force us



287 There's a Fountain Free

Our Merciful Father

Blesses generously (17)

- Even his hired hands
- How much more! (Lk. 7:11)
 - *“I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”*
 - Ps. 37:25
- *“the least in the kingdom is greater than he...”* (Lk. 7:28)



462 God Will Take Care of You

Our Merciful Father

Feels compassion (18-20)

- We know He's waiting
- He wants us to come home
- He has pity for us
 - *"Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost."*
 - Luke 15:6
 - *"I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*
 - Luke 15:10



288 Lord I'm Coming Home

Our Merciful Father

Forgives readily (21-24)

- Repentance & restoration
- Reconciliation not probation
- *“My son was dead...”*
 - His father knew the he had been separated from God
 - Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1
- *“... and is alive again”*
 - The Father will save through His amazing grace
 - Eph. 2:4-7



341 The Way of the Cross Leads Home

Our Merciful Father

Endures patiently (25-32)

- The older son has been loyal to his father
 - But he is not like his father
 - We don't have to go to a far country to be lost...
- Still the father entreats
 - *"Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours."*
- He is our merciful Father
 - *"It was fitting to celebrate and be glad..."*





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