

FAMILY MATTERS

"Now What?"

*"There is no one righteous, not even one...All have turned away..
.there is no one who does good, not even one"*
Romans 3:10-12

GOD UNDERSTANDS PARENTAL PAIN

*"I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.
The ox knows his master...but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."*
Isaiah 1:2-3 (NLT)

PRODIGALS

"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..."
Luke 15:11-13

- Prodigals become INCREASINGLY self-centered
- Prodigals think they know all THE ANSWERS
- Prodigals demand IMMEDIATE GRATIFICATION

"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. 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 15:13-16

HOW DO WE REACH OUR PRODIGALS?

1. Unwavering PRAYER

"...we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you...And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way." Colossians 1:9-10

- * Pray they will have the right FRIENDS (Proverbs 1:10-15)
- * Pray they will get CAUGHT when guilty (Psalm 119:71)
- * Pray that God will do WHATEVER IT TAKES

2. Unending PATIENCE

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him..." Luke 15:20

3. Unconditional LOVE

"...his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." Luke 15:20

"But the Lord still waits for you to come to him, so he can show you his love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God..." Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)

REFLECTION THOUGHTS...

Did you have a season of rebellion? How did God bring you back? For some, you may be living rebelliously now. You know what you need to do. What are you waiting for?

Above all else, what one thing will you take away from today's teaching?