

PART 2
Remembering and Restoring

Relationships

Luke 15:11-31

DSP Melvin Gan

3 March 2024



An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned above a dark blue wavy line that separates the header from the main text area. The background features abstract brown and white wavy shapes at the top.

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ “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 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son



¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are both smiling and appear to be in a joyful embrace. The background is white with brown wavy lines at the top and bottom.

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son



²⁰ 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.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

An illustration of a man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned above a dark blue wavy line that separates the header from the main text area. The background is white with brown wavy shapes at the top corners.

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son

²² “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. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are in a field with a wavy horizon line. The background is white with brown wavy shapes at the top.

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned above a dark blue wavy line that separates the header from the main text area. The background features abstract brown and white wavy shapes at the top.

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ 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.

LUKE 15:11-31 (NIV)
The Parable of the Lost Son



³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

Roadmap:

1. **Remembering**
Important Relationships
2. **Restoring**
Difficult Relationships



1. Remembering Important Relationships



1. Remembering Important Relationships

a. Important Relationships in our lives



1. Remembering Important Relationships

a. Important Relationships in our lives

- There are many relationships in our lives.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

a. Important Relationships in our lives

- There are many relationships in our lives.
- Kinship is defined as a relationship related by blood.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

a. Important Relationships in our lives

- There are many relationships in our lives.



- Kinship is defined as a relationship related by blood.

- The other relationships that are usually most precious to us are our friendships.

**1. Remembering
Important Relationships**

**b. Relationships are Beneficial but can be
Painful**



An illustration of a man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young child with brown hair from behind. The child is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned within a dark grey, wavy, horizontal band that spans the width of the image. The background is white with brown, wavy, abstract shapes at the top corners.

ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12 (AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

There was a certain man - without a dependant, having neither a child nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, “**For whom do I labor and deprive myself of pleasure?**” This too is vanity (a wisp of smoke, self-conceit); yes, it is a painful effort and an unhappy task.

An illustration of two men in a warm embrace. The man on the right is wearing a light blue shirt and has his arms around the other man. The man on the left is wearing a dark shirt and has his back to the viewer. They are positioned on a dark, wavy line that separates the top white section from the bottom grey section.

ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12
(AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

⁹ Two are better than one because they have a more satisfying return for their labor; ¹⁰ for if [a] either of them falls, the **one will lift up his companion**. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and does not have another to lift him up.

An illustration of a man and a woman in a warm embrace. The man is wearing a light blue shirt and the woman is wearing a black top. They are positioned on a dark grey, wavy line that resembles a path or a river. The background is white with brown, wavy shapes at the top corners.

ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12
(AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

¹¹ Again, if two lie down together, then they keep warm; but how can one be warm alone?

¹² And though **one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.**

1. Remembering Important Relationships

- Firstly, verse 8 questioned “for whom do we labour”?



1. Remembering Important Relationships

- Firstly, verse 8 questioned “for whom do we labour”?
- Good relationships give us purpose.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

- Secondly, verse 10 reminds us that when we fall, it is good that we have “companions who will lift us up”.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

- Thirdly, verse 12 reminds us that good kinships protect us.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

➤ Thirdly, verse 12 reminds us that good kinships protect us.

- But are relationships in our lives always good?



An illustration of two men in a warm embrace. The man on the right is wearing a light blue shirt and has his arms around the other man. The man on the left is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned above a dark blue wavy line that separates the illustration from the text below. The background is white with some brown wavy shapes at the top corners.

PROVERBS 18:24 (NIV)

“One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a woman with short brown hair from behind. They are both smiling and appear to be in a joyful embrace. The illustration is set against a white background with stylized, wavy, brown and grey shapes at the top and bottom, suggesting a landscape or a frame.

PROVERBS 18:19 (NIV)

A brother wronged is more unyielding
than a fortified city; disputes are like the
barred gates of a citadel.

1. Remembering Important Relationships

- Today, we are reminded of the joy of beautiful and good relationships in our lives.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

- Today, we are reminded of the joy of beautiful and good relationships in our lives.
- We should also acknowledge that there can be difficult relationships in our lives.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

- We cannot avoid difficult relationships in our lives.



1. Remembering Important Relationships

- We cannot avoid difficult relationships in our lives.
- But we can choose to respond correctly to these difficult relationships, and restore them.



2. **Restoring Difficult Relationships**

- We need to first acknowledge these pains.



2. **Restoring Difficult Relationships**

- We need to first acknowledge these pains.
- Dealing with pain from relationships, and restoring relationships starts with us acknowledging that these difficult relationships have been painful to us.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

i) What did the father go through?



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

i) What did the father go through?

- hurt, betrayed and rejected
by his own son



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

i) What did the father go through?

- hurt, betrayed and rejected by his own son
- The pain of abandonment can be very severe.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

i) What did the father go through?

- used and abused



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

i) What did the father go through?

- used and abused
- The father would have gone through a rollercoaster of emotions - hurt, betrayed, rejected, abandoned and abused.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

ii) The Natural Response

- relationships can indeed sometimes bring us pain instead of joy



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

ii) The Natural Response

- look at the response of the father to get an idea of how our Heavenly Father would want us to respond



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response



An illustration of a man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned on a dark grey, wavy line that resembles a horizon or a path. The background is white with some brown, wavy shapes at the top corners.

LUKE 15:20 (NIV)

²⁰ 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.**”

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response

- As the victim, it will be easier to respond in anger and being vindictive than to respond in compassion and forgiveness.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response

- As the victim, it will be easier to respond in anger and being vindictive than to respond in compassion and forgiveness.
- How can we rely on God to forgive?



An illustration of a man and a woman in a warm embrace. The man, with short brown hair and a beard, is wearing a light blue shirt and is hugging the woman from behind. The woman has short brown hair and is wearing a black top. They are positioned on a dark grey, wavy line that resembles a horizon or a path. The background is white with abstract, wavy brown shapes at the top corners.

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God
forgave you.

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response

- Firstly, we must remember that we too are people who sin against God and are constantly receiving His grace and forgiveness.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

- a) The Victim – Father
- iii) The Father's Response

- Secondly, understand that forgiveness sets us free.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response

- Thirdly, remember that only through our forgiveness that restoration can take place.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response

- Thirdly, remember that only through our forgiveness that restoration can take place.
- How we will use this key – to continue to lock the perpetrator and ourselves up?



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

- a) The Victim – Father
- iii) The Father's Response

- Or to use the key to unlock the pains so that restoration can begin to take place.



An illustration of two men in a warm embrace. The man on the right is wearing a light blue shirt and has his arms around the other man. The man on the left is wearing a dark shirt. They are positioned above a dark blue wavy line that separates the top white section from the bottom grey section. The background features abstract, wavy shapes in shades of brown and tan at the top corners.

PROVERBS 17:19 (NLT)

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven,
but dwelling on it separates close friends.

An illustration of a man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young child with brown hair from behind. The child is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned within a dark grey, wavy, horizontal band that resembles a path or a river. The background is white with brown, wavy, organic shapes at the top corners.

LUKE 15:22 (NIV)

“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.

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

a) The Victim – Father

iii) The Father's Response

- Instead of anger and bitterness, we can choose to respond in compassion, forgiveness and restoration.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

i) What did the Younger Son cause and possibly went through?



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

i) What did the Younger Son cause and possibly went through?

- Some perpetrators will continue to think they are correct. If so, it will be difficult to restore these relationships.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

i) What did the Younger Son cause and possibly went through?

- However, some perpetrators are truly sorry for what they did.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

i) What did the Younger Son cause and possibly went through?

- If a person truly recognizes that he wronged someone, normally he will feel guilty or even condemned.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

i) What did the Younger Son cause and possibly went through?

- If a person truly recognizes that he wronged someone, normally he will feel guilty or even condemned.
- He would face rejection and even isolation by others.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

ii) The Natural Response

- When a perpetrator recognizes his mistakes, there can be a sea of emotional struggles that he will experience too.



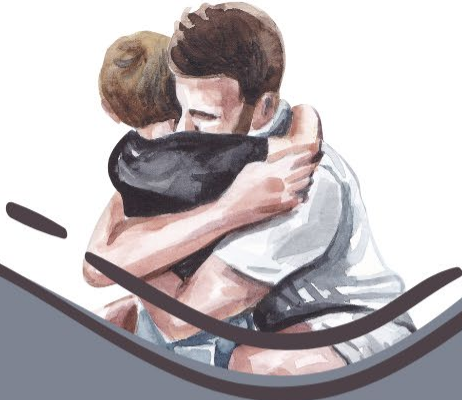
2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

iii) The Younger Son's Response

- Firstly, he took the first step towards the restoration of the relationship.



An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair. They are in a small boat, and the background is a stylized landscape with brown hills and a grey wavy line representing water. The text 'LUKE 15:18 (NIV)' is written in blue above them.

LUKE 15:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ **I will set out and go back to my father**
and say to him: Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you.

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

iii) The Younger Son's Response

- Secondly, we need to admit our mistakes.



An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned within a dark grey, wavy, horizontal shape that resembles a stylized wave or a path. The background is white with some brown and grey wavy shapes at the top corners.

LUKE 15:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, **I have sinned against heaven and against you.**

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

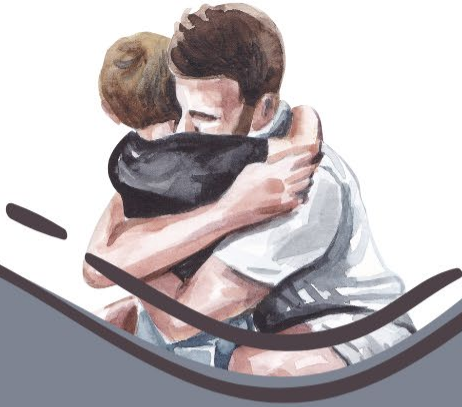
b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

iii) The Younger Son's Response

- Thirdly, we must learn to accept the consequences of our actions and not expect automatic forgiveness and restoration.



LUKE 15:19 (NIV)



¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

iii) The Younger Son's Response

- Fourthly, be prepared to make restitution.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

iii) The Younger Son's Response

- Fourthly, be prepared to make restitution.
- Restitution is the restoration of something lost. It is to recompense.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

b) The Perpetrator – Younger Son

iii) The Younger Son's Response

- Fifthly, we can only hope for mercy and forgiveness, but not expect them.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son

i) What did the Older Son go through?



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

- c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son
- ii) The Father's Response to the
Older Son



An illustration of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, hugging a young boy with brown hair from behind. The boy is wearing a black shirt. They are positioned above a dark blue wavy line that separates the illustration from the text below. The background is white with some brown wavy shapes at the top corners.

LUKE 15:31-32 (NIV)

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² 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.’”

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son

ii) The Father's Response to the Older Son

- Firstly, be thankful and affirmed for your correct response all these while.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son

ii) The Father's Response to the Older Son

- Secondly, forgive and restore as well.
- Thirdly, be the peacemaker.



An illustration of a man and a woman in a warm embrace. The man, with short brown hair and a beard, is wearing a light blue shirt and is hugging the woman from behind. The woman has short brown hair and is wearing a black top. They are positioned on a dark grey, wavy line that resembles a horizon or a path. The background is white with stylized, wavy brown shapes in the top corners.

MATTHEW 5:9 (NIV)

... we were taught that “blessed are the peacemakers
for they will be called children of God”.

2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son

ii) The Father's Response to the Older Son

- What if after we have done all we can, whether you are a victim, perpetrator or collateral damage, and relationships cannot be restored?



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son

ii) The Father's Response to the Older Son

- We have to accept that damages to relationships can sometimes be irreversible even if we tried our best to restore them.



2. Restoring Difficult Relationships

c) The Collateral Damage – Older Son

ii) The Father's Response to the Older Son

- Nonetheless, we must be obedient to God in these matters.



Conclusion

