

WHAT WOULD Jesus Say?

ANSWERING LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS

Part 8 – Hope for Hurting Parents
Luke 15:11-24

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I. JESUS GAVE US A STORY OF A FATHER WHOSE SON CHOSE TO GO DOWN SOME WRONG PATHS.

*Galatians 6:7 “Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will **always** reap what you sow!”*

II. THERE IS A POINT IN TIME IN WHICH PARENTS MUST LET THEIR CHILD GO **HIS OWN WAY**.

A. Let your child **go**.

1. If your child has reached an age in which he / she is **old enough** and on their own and nothing you say is making any difference, you have to let him / her go.
2. Once the boy left the house, the **income** from the father stopped.

B. Let them make **their own mistakes**.

There are some things we only learn through **pain**.

C. Let them **reap the consequences** of their choices.

1. All parents make mistakes as parents. None of us are perfect. Our kids grow up and sometimes make wrong **choices**.
2. God is a PERFECT parent but does He have rebellious children? **Yes**.

III. ASK GOD TO DO WHAT YOU CANNOT DO IN THE HEART OF YOUR CHILD.

The root of all of our wrong decisions is spiritual and all of us can only be fixed from the **inside** out.

1. **Pray** for your kids.

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

2. Commit them to **God**.

Hebrews 12:6 "...Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son."

3. **Wait** patiently.

*Psalms 37:7-8 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him... ⁸ **Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil.**"*

IV. WHEN YOUR CHILD RETURNS.

Luke 15:20 "So he got up and went back to his father. And while he was still a long way off his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him and he ran to his son and threw his arms around him and kissed him."

A. Love him with **compassion**.

B. Accept her **unconditionally**.

There is a difference between acceptance and **approval**.

C. Forgive them **completely**.

The Action Steps I Will Take This Week Are...

1. I choose to come back home in my relationship with my heavenly Father.
2. I will seek to restore a broken relationship with one or more of my parents.

