

Redemption

Reckless Love

GOD HAS BEEN PURSUING YOU YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

Psalm 139 (TPT)—1 Lord, you know everything there is to know about me. 2 You perceive every movement of my heart and soul, and you understand my every thought before it even enters my mind. 3–4 You are so intimately aware of me, Lord. You read my heart like an open book and you know all the words I'm about to speak before I even start a sentence! You know every step I will take before my journey even begins.

7 Where could I go from your Spirit? Where could I run and hide from your face? 8 If I go up to heaven, you're there! If I go down to the realm of the dead, you're there too! 9 If I fly with wings into the shining dawn, you're there! If I fly into the radiant sunset, you're there waiting!

11 It's impossible to disappear from you

Psalm 139 (TPT)—13 You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother's womb. 15 You even formed every bone in my body when you created me in the secret place, carefully, skillfully shaping me[f] from nothing to something.

17–18 Every single moment you are thinking of me! How precious and wonderful to consider that you cherish me constantly in your every thought!

You are valued by God; you are precious to Him like nothing else in creation.

Luke 15 (TPT)—1 Many dishonest tax collectors and other notorious sinners often gathered around to listen as Jesus taught the people. 2 This raised concerns with the Jewish religious leaders and experts of the law. Indignant, they grumbled and complained, saying, "Look at how this man associates with all these notorious sinners and welcomes them all to come to him!"

The Pharisees and scribes couldn't figure out why Jesus would bother with people so broken, so messed up and so riddled with mistakes.

When we live in a world where love is conditional, it's hard to understand someone whose love is unconditional.

Ephesians 3:19—God's love transcends our human understanding, so we struggle to comprehend it.

Luke 15 (TPT)—4–5 "There once was a shepherd with a hundred lambs, but one of his lambs wandered away and was lost. So the shepherd left the ninety-nine lambs out in the open field and searched in the wilderness for that one lost lamb. He didn't stop until he finally found it. With exuberant joy he raised it up and placed it on his shoulders, carrying it back with cheerful delight! 6 Returning home, he called all his friends and neighbors together and said, 'Let's have a party! Come and celebrate with me the return of my lost lamb. It wandered away, but I found it and brought it home.'" 7 Jesus continued, "In the same way, there will be a glorious celebration in heaven over the rescue of one lost sinner who repents, comes back home, and returns to the fold—more so than for all the righteous people who never strayed away."

THE LOST COIN

8 Jesus gave them another parable: “There once was a woman who had ten valuable silver coins. When she lost one of them, she swept her entire house, diligently searching every corner of her house for that one lost coin. 9 When she finally found it, she gathered all her friends and neighbors for a celebration, telling them, ‘Come and celebrate with me! I had lost my precious silver coin, but now I’ve found it.’ 10 That’s the way God responds every time one lost sinner repents and turns to him. He says to all his angels, ‘Let’s have a joyous celebration, for that one who was lost I have found!’”

THE LOVING FATHER

11 Then Jesus said, “Once there was a father with two sons. 12 The younger son came to his father and said, ‘Father, don’t you think it’s time to give me the share of your estate that belongs to me?’ So the father went ahead and distributed among the two sons their inheritance. 13 Shortly afterward, the younger son packed up all his belongings and traveled off to see the world. He journeyed to a far-off land where he soon wasted all he was given in a binge of extravagant and reckless living.

14 “With everything spent and nothing left, he grew hungry, for there was a severe famine in that land. 15 So he begged a farmer in that country to hire him. The farmer hired him and sent him out to feed the pigs. 16 The son was so famished, he was willing to even eat the slop given to the pigs, because no one would feed him a thing.

17 “Humiliated, the son finally realized what he was doing and he thought, ‘There are many workers at my father’s house who have all the food they want with plenty to spare. They lack nothing. Why am I here dying of hunger, feeding these pigs and eating their slop? 18 I want to go back home to my father’s house, and I’ll say to him, “Father, I was wrong. I have sinned against you. 19 I’ll never be worthy to be called your son. Please, Father, just treat me like one of your employees.”’

20 “So the young son set off for home. From a long distance away, his father saw him coming, dressed as a beggar, and great compassion swelled up in his heart for his son who was returning home. So, the father raced out to meet him. He swept him up in his arms, hugged him dearly, and kissed him over and over with tender love.

Ephesians 1 (NLT)—4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Luke 15 (TPT)—21 “Then the son said, ‘Father, I was wrong. I have sinned against you. I could never deserve to be called your son. Just let me be—’ “The father interrupted and said, ‘Son, you’re home now!’ 22 “Turning to his servants, the father said, ‘Quick, bring me the best robe, my very own robe, and I will place it on his shoulders. Bring the ring, the seal of son-ship, and I will put it on his finger. And bring out the best shoes you can find for my son. 23 Let’s prepare a great feast and celebrate. 24 For this beloved son of mine was once dead, but now he’s alive again. Once he was lost, but now he is found!’ And everyone celebrated with overflowing joy.

To get the son, the Father was willing to absorb the debt.

Ephesians 1 (AMP)—7 In Him we have redemption [we’ve be bought] through His blood, [which paid the penalty for our sin and resulted in] the forgiveness and complete pardon of our sin

Romans 5 (NKJV)—6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare

to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

When we live in a world where love is conditional, unconditional love looks irrational!

Will you accept the unconditional love of the Father?