

***How to Get Closer to God!***  
Sermon Series: *Transformed Pt. 1*  
September 7, 2014

**Transformed Theme Verse:**

**Romans 12:2**, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

**The Lost Son And The Loving Father**

Luke 15:11-24

**1. I Must Get FED UP With My LIFE**

**Luke 15:13**, 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. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

**Jeremiah 29:13**, God said, “You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”

**2. I Must OWN UP To My SIN**

**Luke 15:17-18**, 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! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.’

**Isaiah 59:2**, But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

**Truth:** You Are As CLOSE To God As You CHOOSE To Be.

**Psalms 51:1-4**, Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup>Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge.

**Isaiah 1:18**, “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

**2 Corinthians 13:5**, Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

**3. I Must OFFER Up MYSELF**

**Luke 15:12**, The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share...’

**Luke 15:19**, I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

**2 Corinthians 3:18**, And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**Thought:** Transformation Is A PROCESS But There Is A Starting POINT

**Romans 12:1-2**, Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Important Key—Note the Father’s Response:**

**Luke 15:20-24**, 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. <sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>“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. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

#### 4. I Must **LIFT** Up My **PRAISE**

**Luke 15:23-24**, *Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.*

**Psalm 68:4**, *Sing to God, sing in praise of His name, extol Him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before Him—His name is the LORD.*

**Psalm 13:6**, *I will sing the LORD's praise, for He has been good to me.*

#### **My Part In Coming Back To God:**

- 1) Make a commitment to be at a service each Sunday  
(9:30a, 11:00a, 6:15p)
- 2) Join a Life Group on Sunday mornings  
(8:30a, 9:30a or 11:00a)
- 3) Join a Home Group (visit tables in the Atrium)
- 4) Buy a Daily Transformed Study Guide
- 5) Follow the Pastor's daily Transformed thoughts and staff blogs. ([www.johnmarkcaton.com](http://www.johnmarkcaton.com); FB: John Mark Caton; Twitter: @JohnMarkCaton; or [www.cottonwoodcreek.org](http://www.cottonwoodcreek.org))