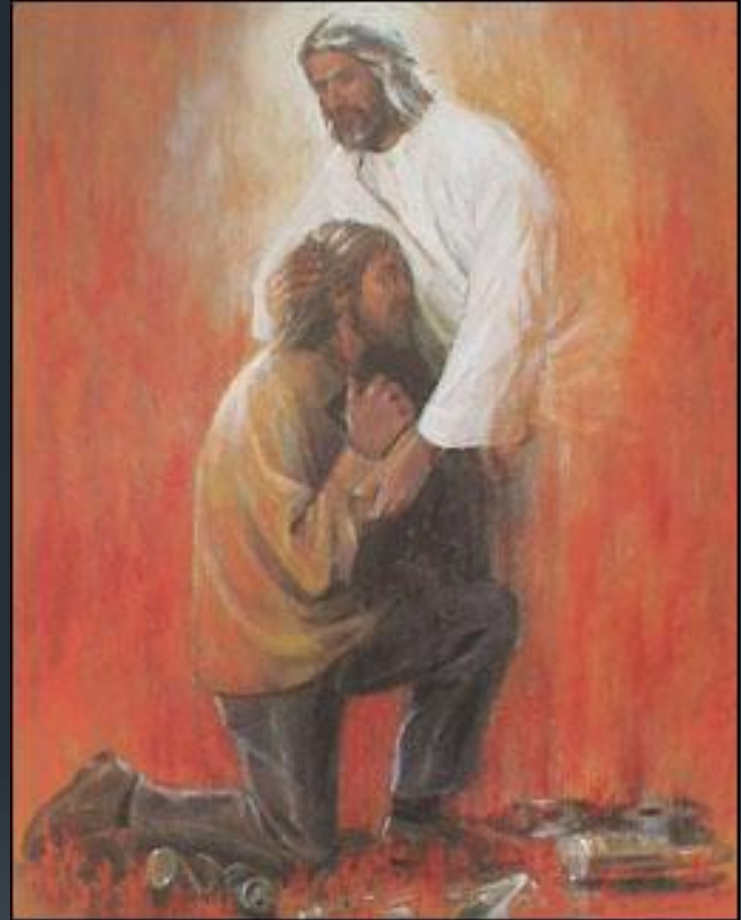


“But when he
was still a great
way off, his father
saw him and had
compassion, and
ran and fell on his
neck and kissed
him”

Luke 15:20



How
different
was this
Father?

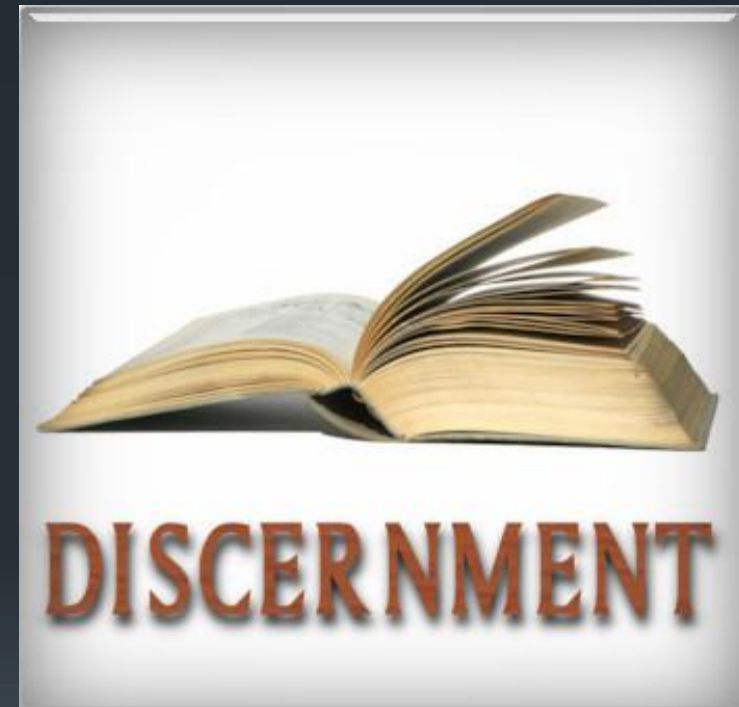


1. Different in his discernment

1. He allowed his son to go away and bear the consequences of his choice. *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live”*

Deuteronomy 30:19

2. He knew when not to seek after a son and when to go after another one.



2. Different in his love

1. He gave his money to an ungrateful son to gain him back at the end.

“For He is kind to the unthankful and evil”

Luke 6:35

2. He restrained himself from rescuing his son while still living astray.



3. Different in his humility ⁽¹⁾

1. He listened to the complaints of his older son and answered him in a meek way.

- The example of Jonah

- The example of Abraham: *“Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”* **Genesis 18:25**



3. Different in his humility ⁽²⁾

2. He spared his younger son the usual prideful reproach: “I told you”!!

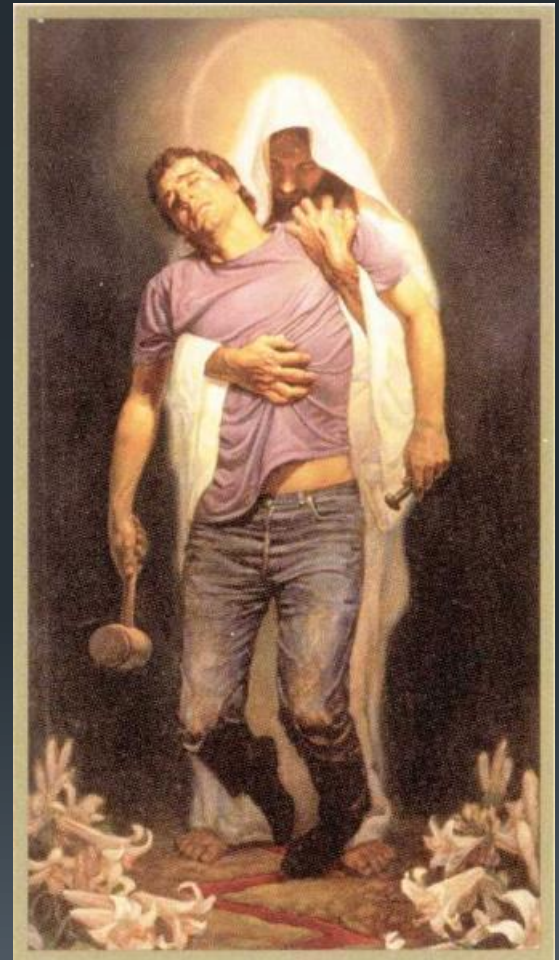


You want to know why I did not call? I did not call because I do not want to talk with you anymore. Your voice is in my head, talking constantly from morning until night. I keep my radio turned on, but I still hear you, and I will hear you all my life, until the day I die, when I will hear you say, “I told you”



4. Different in his forgiveness

1. He accepted his son back without waiting for a word of explanation.
2. He restored his son to his original state in the house.



5. Different than others in the story

1. The son's friends lasted with him as much as his money did. Yet, the father was there at all times.
2. The older brother was upset at his brother's return

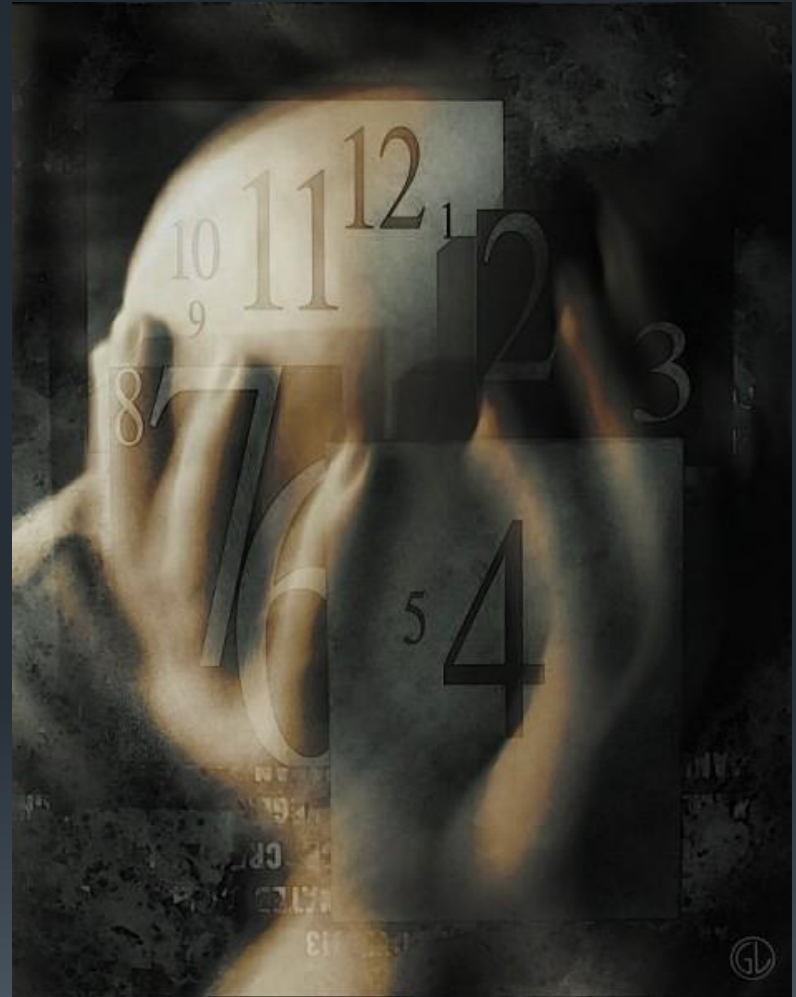


*“God is not a man, that He
should lie, Nor a son of man,
that He should repent. Has He
said, and will He not do? Or
has He spoken, and will He
not make it good?”*

Numbers 23:19



How does
the image
of God
become
distorted in
our minds?



1. The wrong teachings about God
2. The negative example of the leader of the family
3. The wrong sources to learn about God
4. Man's pride that portrays God in man's image



How does
the negative
image about
God hinder
our
repentance?



1. It makes us doubt in God's forgiveness even after confessing.
2. It instills fear in our hearts toward God who will punish us each and every time we do something wrong against Him.



3. It takes the joy of God's acceptance away from our hearts.
4. It transforms the relationship between us and Him to a formal one between a Master and his subordinates

