

“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



Knowing
the **HEART** *of*
God

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” (Jn. 1:18)

1. He highly respects His children

- “...have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...” (Deut. 30:19)



2. He waits patiently



- God is not annoyed or angered when we make a mistake or sin, but He suffers with us.
- EX: Rich Young Ruler
 - Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (Mk. 10:21-22)

3. He gives liberally

- Sometimes when God gives it is not with joy, but He is always overjoyed when we return to Him.
- “Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely.” (SS 2:14)
- “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Rev. 3:20)

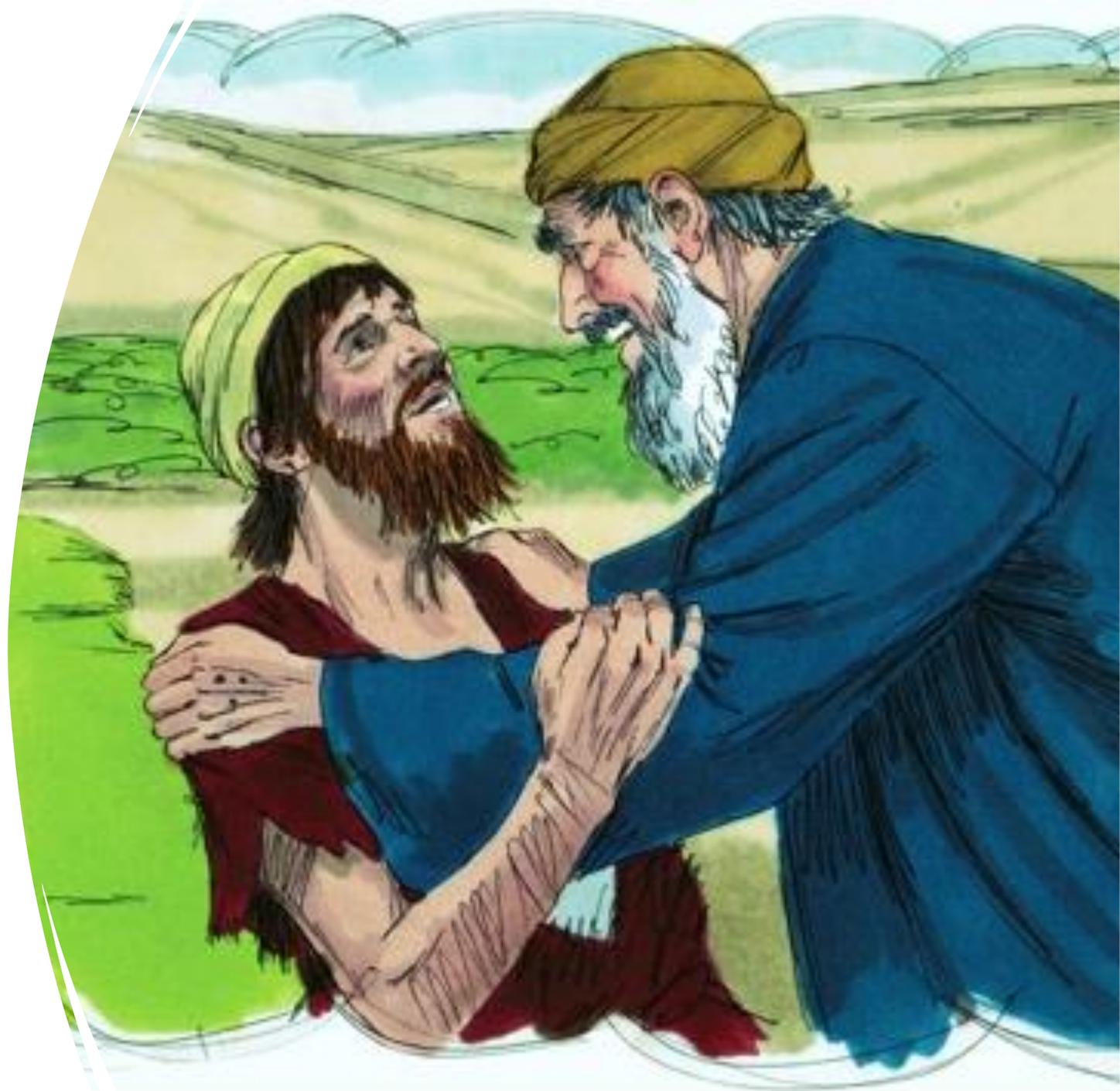


What is God's desire for His children?



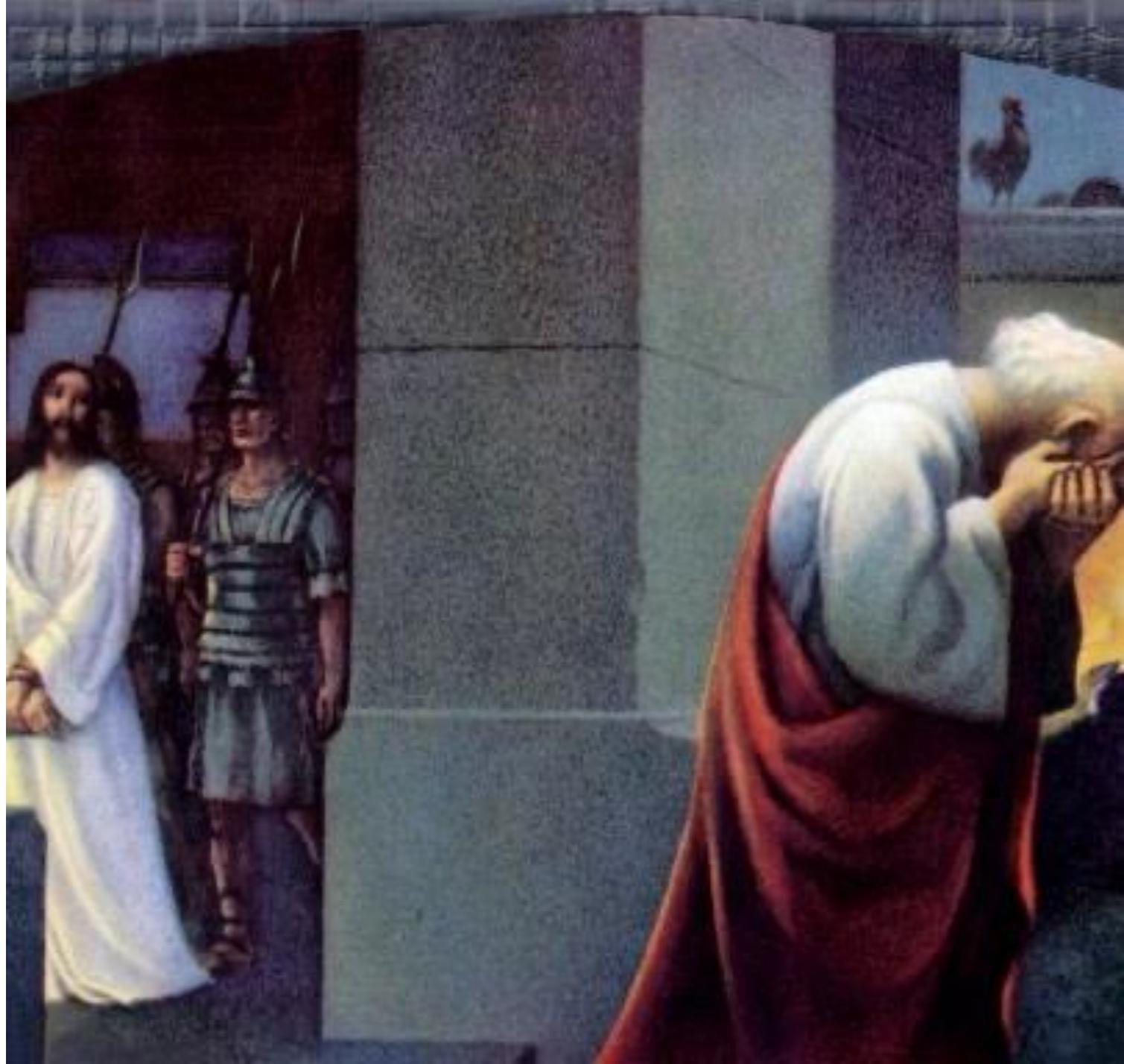
1. Our repentance

- Our repentance brings Him joy
 - “For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?” (2 Cor. 2:2)
- God eagerly awaits our return
 - “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion...” (Lk. 15:20)



1. Our repentance

- He is compassionate
 - EX: The Lord Christ with Peter when he denied Him
 - “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.” (Lk. 22:31)
- He fell on him
- His father’s greeting was unexpected



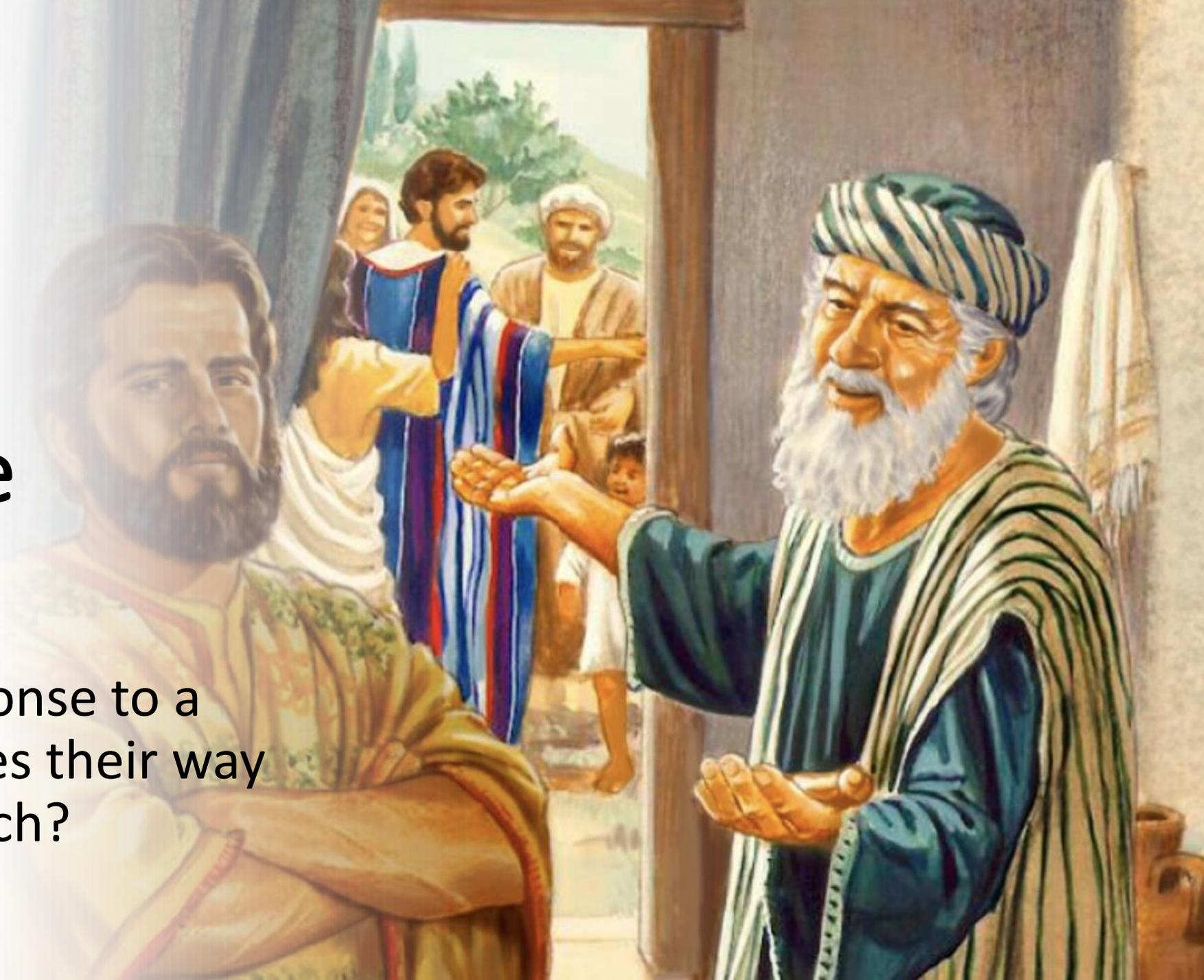


1. Our repentance

- The father was preparing for his return
- “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (Jn. 14:2-3)

2. Love the brethren

What is my response to a sinner who makes their way back to the church?



3. Rejoice in the Lord

- “ ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”
(Lk. 15:31-32)

