

Steadfast Love

Rev Dr Ray Francis

Farwell United Methodist Church

03-30-2025

The Father's House

Song within the sermon - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbH0zGNA3Wk>

Key Idea 1: The Foundation of Steadfast Love is God's Character

- **1: God's Love is Unchanging**
 - (Psalm 136:1-26)
- **2: God's Love is Everlasting**
 - (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- **3: God's Love is the Model for Our Love**
 - (1 John 4:7-12)

Key Idea 2: The Steadfast Love of God Brings Redemption and Restoration

- **1: God's Love Pursues Us**
 - (Romans 5:8)
- **2: God's Love Heals and Restores**
 - (Psalm 103:1-4)
- **3: God's Love Strengthens Us**
 - (Romans 8:37-39)

Key Idea 3: Our Response to God's Steadfast Love

- **1: We are Called to Love God with Steadfastness**
 - (Matthew 22:37-38)
- **2: We are Called to Love Others with Steadfastness**
 - (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
- **3: Steadfast Love Leads to a Life of Gratitude and Worship (Psalm 136:1-26)**

Parable of the Forgiving Father or Parable of the Prodigal Son??

- **Luke 15:1-32**
- **Perspective today -**

The Rebellion of the Younger Son

- 1: Demanding His Inheritance
- 2: Squandering His Wealth
- 3: Hitting Rock Bottom

The Father's Unwavering Love

- 1: Eagerly Watching for His Son
- 2: Running to Embrace His Son
- 3: Robing and Restoring Him

The Older Son's Resentment

- 1: Reaction to His Brother's Return
- 2: Refusal to Celebrate
- 3: The Father's Appeal to Him

Lessons on Forgiveness and Grace

- *1: God's Abundant Mercy*
- *2: Repentance and Restoration*
- *3: Embracing the Lost*

The Father's Heart Revealed

- 1: Reflecting God's Character
- 2: Inviting Us into His Family
- 3: Living in the Father's Love

Our Lesson to be Learned

- The parable of the forgiving father reveals the depth of God's grace, mercy, and love. It reminds us that no matter how far we may wander, God is always waiting with open arms to welcome us back. The story also calls us to embrace the lost and rejoice in their return, recognizing that God's love is available to all, whether they are like the wayward son or the self-righteous older brother. Let us respond to God's invitation with repentance, humility, and a heart of forgiveness, knowing that in His love, we are always welcome.

Our Lesson to be Learned

- **God's Unconditional Love:** Explore how the father in the parable exemplifies God's boundless and unconditional love for all, regardless of past actions or circumstances.
- **Seeking the Lost:** Reflect on the father's proactive search for his wayward son, illustrating God's relentless pursuit of those who are lost or distant from Him.
- **Celebrating Repentance:** Emphasize the joyful reception and celebration upon the son's return, highlighting God's delight in genuine repentance and reconciliation with Him.

The Father's Heart Revealed

- <https://nickwattssoulfood.com/2019/11/21/the-prodigal-son-a-modern-day-telling/>
- The Steadfast Love of Christ – video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj7YIquU4b0>