

# What If? (Possibilities for a New Year)

## What If I Forgave?

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher - January 6, 2013

Luke 15:11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 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. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 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. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "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. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

If I forgive...

### 1. **GOD WILL FORGIVE ME**

Luke 6:37 (Jesus said)

"Forgive and you will be forgiven."

Matt 6:12 (Jesus taught us to pray)

"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us."

Matthew 6:14-15 (Jesus, immediately after Lord's Prayer)

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Mark 11:25 (Jesus said to forgive before you pray...)

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Luke 23:34 (Jesus on the cross)

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Eph 4:32 (Apostle Paul)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

If I forgive...

### 2. **MY HEART WILL BE HEALED AND SET FREE**

Unforgiveness is like an Untreated cancer that will Destroy us.

Unforgiveness does not give you leverage over the other person.

Unforgiveness does not punish the other person, it punishes YOU.

The UnforgivER carries the weight of the offense.

Jesus taught us to Forgive because He knew the power of Unforgiveness to Destroy us.

And He knows the power of Forgiveness to Free us.