**HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE!**

**(Luke 15)**

1. **PURSUING THE LOST (v.1-10)**
2. The Lost Sheep (v.1-7)
3. The Lost Coin (v.8-10)
4. **POURING OUT HIS LOVE (v.11-32)**
5. Rebellion (v.11-16)
6. Repentance (v.17-19)
7. Rejoicing (v.20-24)

Who was not rejoicing? (v.25-32)

CHARACTERISTICS OF ELDER BROTHER:

A.W. Tozer on the greatness of God’s love in Knowledge of the Holy:

“Because God is self-existent, His love had no beginning; because He is eternal, His love can have no end; because He is infinite, it has no limit; because He is holy, it is the quintessence of all spotless purity; because He is immense, His love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea.”

Great Hymn: “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

The opening stanza could have well been inspired by Tozer:

 O the deep, deep love of Jesus

 Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!

 Rolling as a mighty ocean

 In its fullness over me.

 By Thomas J. Williams

FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:

Will you take your own spiritual temperature and observe how you relate to God’s extravagant love through the characters of the two brothers?

**How much like the younger brother are you?**

 Have you ever rebelled against God? When have you chosen to “do your own thing” instead

of obeying the Lord? Are you doing things “your way”?

 Like the younger brother, have you ever realized (perhaps out of misery) who you really are?

 Have you remembered the goodness and kindness of God to you?

 Have you ever truly repented and asked God for forgiveness? Have you ever truly rejoiced

with Him?

**How much evidence is there in your life that you are similar to the elder brother**?

 Are you relying on your own performance before God?

 Have you forgotten what you were like before you came to the Father?

 Do you consider yourself a “good person” because you haven’t committed certain sins?

 Are your attitudes like the elder brother’s: full of pride, jealousy, and condemnation?

 Are you self-righteous, over-estimating yourself? Do you exaggerate others’ sins?

 Who might you be comparing yourself to?

What do you personally know of the love of God “rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over you?” WILL YOU TAKE TIME AND PRAISE HIM FOR HIS MATCHLESS LOVE (especially realized in

the gift of His Son Jesus enabling your sins to be truly forgiven)!