

Still A Long Way Off

Pastor Jeff Alexander + Lent 4 + March 31, 2019



Isaiah 12:1-2

In that day you will say: "I will praise You, Lord. Although You were angry with me, Your anger has turned away and You have comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord Himself, is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation."

- *What is the cause for the Lord's anger? Is He justified in being angry?*
- *What alone turns His anger away and brings comfort to His people?*

The story of "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32) displays God's SAVING WORK in our lives.

- *After all the wrongs the son did against his father, what does the father do when his son returns home?*

Luke 15:20

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.

The work of RECONCILIATION restores us in our most vital relationships— first with GOD, then with OTHERS.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

Jesus does 100% of the work to RESCUE and RESTORE people to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

¹⁹ And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Jesus commits to you and me the responsibility to:

1. SHARE THE MESSAGE of what He did to save the world at the cross.
2. LIVE OUT in the world the reconciliation He provides at the cross.