

Transforming Daily
“. . . compassion . . .”
Luke 15:20

Compassion is a necessary characteristic for any relationship to be successful. Unfortunately, it is often neglected especially between fathers and sons and sons and fathers. That's why it is often said that grandfathers are the bridge to agreement between fathers and sons. The reason being is that by the time grandfathers have reached the age to be grandfathers they have made, and hopefully learned from, the mistakes that they made with their sons that their sons are most likely going to repeat with their sons.

The storyline here in Luke is usually focused on the wayward son and his subsequent return. However, I would like to direct our attention to the attitude and compassion of the father of the wayward son. The father had at least two sons based on the text. The Older was very dedicated to the father's will for the household. The younger son was all about himself. When the younger son left he did not leave on the best of terms. He thought he was going to make it on his own and wouldn't need the help of anyone including his father's. Implied by the posture of the father, the father knew better. This scenario vaguely reminds me of the 50s sitcom, *Father Knows Best*. Bud always seemed to get himself into a pickle and his father's wisdom would help him out of the jam. Nevertheless, the conclusion of the given episode ended with praise for the wisdom, patience and compassion of the father.

In verse fifteen, it is clear that the father was looking for the return of the younger son. He anticipated his return. The father could have gotten bitter, hardnosed, and filled with pride against his son's personal rejection and abandonment. Lesser offenses have caused bigger rifts between fathers and their children. The single reason is the lack of compassion.

Dads (moms) what is your relationship like between your sons and daughters? Have you or are you pushing them away? Granddads are you sensitive to the breach between fathers and sons that might exist between your sons and grandsons? Here's a bit of advice (that I am still trying to get right with my children who are grown and have children of their own), anticipate the need for continuing, personal interaction with your children. Even if they seem to give up on you, don't ever give up on them. And remember, the key is compassion.