



PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

Seeing ourselves in the father and his two sons

HEBREWS 4:12

12 For the word of God is **living and active** and sharper than any two-edged sword—piercing right through to a separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to **judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

JACOB 1:22-25

*22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his **natural face** in a mirror -*

JACOB 1:22-25

24 for once he looks at himself and goes away, he **immediately forgets** what sort of person he was.

JACOB 1:22-25

25 But the one who **looks intently** into the perfect Torah, the Torah that gives freedom, and continues in it, not becoming a hearer who forgets but a **doer who acts** - he shall be **blessed** in what he does.

LUKE 15:11-32

11 Then Yeshua said, "A certain **man** had **two sons**, 12 and the younger of them said to the father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that comes to me.' So he divided his wealth between **them**.

LUKE 15:11-32

13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered everything and traveled to a far country, and there he squandered his inheritance on wild living. 14 Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine came against that country, and he began to be in need.

LUKE 15:11-32

15 So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to fill up on the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one was giving him any.

LUKE 15:11-32

17 But when he **came to his senses**, he said,
'How many of my father's hired workers have
food overflowing, but here I am dying of
hunger! 18 I'll get up and go to my father,
and I'll say to him, "Father, I have sinned
against heaven and in your presence.'

LUKE 15:11-32

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers.' 20 And he got up and went to his own father. But while he was still far away, his father saw him and felt compassion. He ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

LUKE 15:11-32

21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your presence. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'

LUKE 15:11-32

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it! Let's celebrate with a feast! 24 For this son of mine was dead and has come back to life - he was lost and is found!' Then they began to celebrate.

LUKE 15:11-32

25 Now his older son was out in the field. And as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called out to one of the servants and began to ask what these things could be.

LUKE 15:11-32

27 The servant said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he got him back safe and sound.' 28 But the older son was angry and didn't want to go in. So his father came outside and pleaded with him.

LUKE 15:11-32

29 But he answered and said to his father, 'Look, so many years I've slaved away for you - not once did I ignore your order. Yet you've never given me a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came - the one who has squandered your wealth with prostitutes - for him you killed the fattened calf!'

LUKE 15:11-32

31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything that is mine is yours. 32 But it was right to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead but has come back to life! He was lost, but is found.'"

SHORT STORIES BY JESUS

➤ Amy-Jill Levine

➤ "...the parable's message of finding the lost, of reclaiming children, of reassessing the meaning of family offer not only good news, but better news."



SHORT STORIES BY JESUS



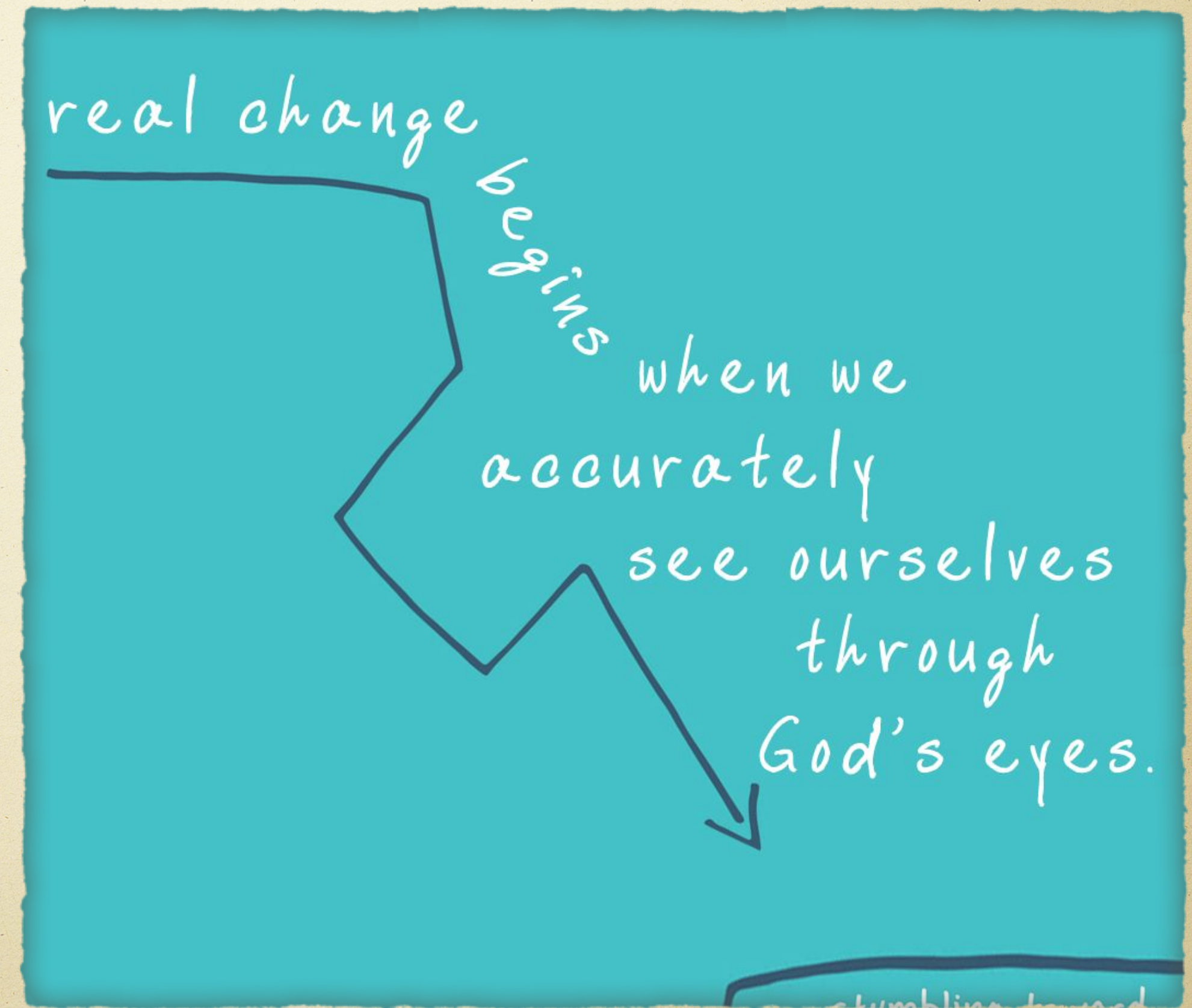
➤ "The prodigal disappears from the second half of the narrative; therefore, when readers focus only on the prodigal, it is a prodigal act..."

STUMBLING TOWARD WHOLENESS

➤ Andrew Bauman

➤ **"Real change**

begins when we
accurately see
ourselves through
God's eyes."



PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

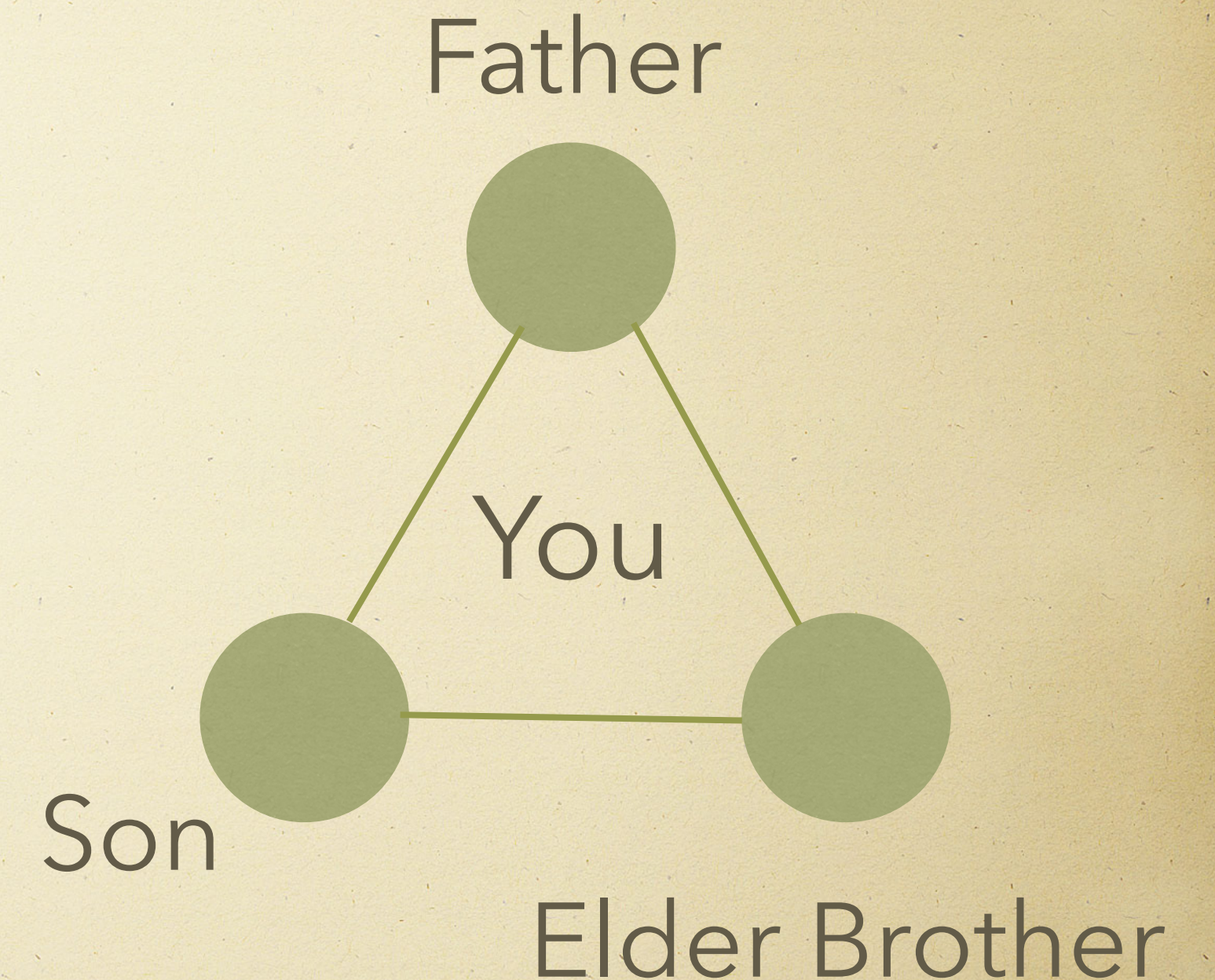
➤ Bauman's title: "*A Story of a Loving
Father and His Wayward Sons*"

PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

- Bauman lays out **three** areas, or "**realms**," that each of us may experience interchangeably throughout our lifetimes by using the characters in the Parable of the Lost Son:

PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

- The Son Realm
- The Elder Brother Realm
- The Father Realm



THE SON REALM

- What did the younger son do?
 - Demanded his inheritance
 - Left home & family
 - Squandered his inheritance

THE SON REALM

➤ What did the younger son feel?

➤ Shame

➤ Self-Contempt

STUMBLING TOWARD WHOLENESS

➤ Quote: "To live into who we are meant to be in God's family, we must wholeheartedly embrace the radical truth that we are image bearers of the divine, beloved by the God who created us."

LUKE 15:18-19

18 *I'll get up and go to my father, and I'll say to him, "Father, **I have sinned** against heaven and in your presence. 19 **I am no longer worthy** to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers.'*

THE SON REALM

➤ Quote: "When we live in the Son Realm, our ultimate **goal** is **relief** from our pain. We are driven by avoidance of heartache, pursuit of relief, and escape into pleasure."

THE ELDER BROTHER REALM

- What did the eldest son do?
 - Stayed home to work
 - Stayed away from the party
 - Blamed his brother

THE ELDER BROTHER REALM

- What did the eldest son feel?
 - Entitled & Self-Righteous
 - Prideful & Insecure

LUKE 15:25-30

25 Now his older son was out **in the field**. And as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called out to one of the servants and began to ask what these things could be.

LUKE 15:25-30

27 The servant said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he got him back safe and sound.' 28 But the older son was **angry and didn't want to go in**. So his father came outside and pleaded with him.

LUKE 15:25-30

29 But he answered and said to his father, 'Look, so many years I've **slaved away for you**—not once did I ignore your order. Yet you've never given me a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

LUKE 15:25-30

30 *But when this son of yours came—the one who has **squandered your wealth with prostitutes**—for him you killed the fattened calf!”*

THE ELDER BROTHER REALM

➤ Quote: "We all carry a **harsh judge** inside ourselves. This judge is insecure, yet self-aggrandizing; entitled, yet so full of self-loathing that he condemns in **others** what he **cannot bear** within himself."

THE ELDER BROTHER REALM

➤ Quote: "Beneath this rage is a deep well of sadness and a sense of **loss** and **betrayal**. The elder brother is just as **lost** as his younger sibling."

THE ELDER BROTHER REALM

➤ Quote: "He feels that his hard work, dutiful spirit, and good behavior should be his ticket to the party, but they are the very things that **block** him from the inclusion he was **meant for**."

LUKE 10:40-42

40 But Martha was distracted with **much serving**; so she approached Yeshua and said, "Master, **doesn't it concern you** that my sister has **left me** to serve alone? Then tell her to help me!"

LUKE 10:40-42

41 But answering her, the Lord said,
"Martha, Martha, you are **anxious** and
bothered about many things; 42 but only
one thing is necessary. For Miriam has
chosen the good part, which will **not be**
taken away from her."

THE FATHER REALM

- What did the father do?
 - Divided his inheritance
 - Celebrated his younger son's return
 - Sought out his eldest son

THE FATHER REALM

- What did the father feel?
 - Rejection
 - Grief
 - Unconditional Love

LUKE 15:20-24, 31-32

20 And he got up and went to his own father. But while he was still far away, his father **saw him** and felt **compassion**. He ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

LUKE 15:20-24, 31-32

21 *Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your presence. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

22 *But the father said to his slaves, 'Quick! Bring out the **best robe** and put it on him! Put a **ring** on his hand and **sandals** on his feet.'*

LUKE 15:20-24, 31-32

23 Bring the **fattened calf** and kill it! Let's **celebrate** with a feast! 24 For this **son of mine** was dead and has come back to life—he was lost and is found! Then they began to celebrate.

LUKE 15:20-24, 31-32

31 Then the father said to him, '**Son**, you are **always with me**, and **everything** that is **mine is yours**. 32 But it was right to celebrate and **rejoice**, because this **brother of yours** was dead but has come back to life! He was lost, but is found.'"

THE FATHER REALM

➤ Quote: "When we enter the Father Realm, our tasks are to **befriend grief**, **extend kindness** toward ourselves and others, and **surrender control**."

THE FATHER REALM

➤ Quote: "The pull is for us to be like God in our kindness, but we must address our **core fear** of potential **rejection**...The cost of living in the Father Realm will be **vulnerability** to increased pain, but also capacity for **deeper celebration**."

THE FATHER REALM

➤ Quote: "...the Father Realm is where God's face is the clearest. The father **boldly grieves** his younger son's apparent death and his older son's blindness to steadfast love.

THE FATHER REALM

➤ Quote: "This posture of courage is one we are all called to **imitate**, because the deeper we allow ourselves to **risk pain** in relationships, the more capacity we have to experience **joy**."

REMEMBER...

➤ **"Real change** begins when we accurately see ourselves through **God's eyes."**