



## Where Discernment Begins

Jeremy & Lisa Peters ~ June 2, 2019

*To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.*

*"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.*

*"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."*

*"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'*

*"But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.*

Luke 15:11-24

### Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions:

- What has Jesus been showing you as you have been experimenting with the Hearing God Practice through this series?
- As you set aside time to listen for Jesus' voice, what might He be showing you about how your thoughts, feelings and beliefs about either yourself or a current circumstance you are engaged in differ from His?
- In what ways are you seeking to intentionally explore this with him? How could you put yourself in the 'pathway of the Spirit' to allow Jesus to help you discern your own heart?
- What do you think Jesus might be saying to you in this season about the pace and condition of your internal world?

# Hearing God Practice

## PART ONE:

Read Luke 15:11-24 (story of the prodigal son).

In what ways do you identify with the prodigal? Review the following list of false identity statements with Jesus and invite Him to show you which of the following you have been believing about yourself.

- I am a mistake
- I am a burden
- I am stupid
- I am worthless
- I am not allowed to make mistakes
- I must be approved by certain people to be ok
- I don't have the right to experience joy or pleasure
- I don't have the right to assert myself and say what I think and feel
- I don't have a right to feel
- I am valued based on my intelligence, physical appearance, wealth, and what I do, not who I am.

Now review the following list of **true identity** statements. Where does Jesus want to speak truth over you in place of the lies you've believed?

- **Beloved** – *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”* – Jeremiah 31:3
- **A Child of God** – *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!”* - 1 John 3:1
- **Delighted In** – *“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”* – Zephaniah 3:17
- **Forgiven** – *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”* - 1 Peter 2:24

- **Washed Clean** – *“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”* – Isaiah 1:18
- **Free** – *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”* - Galatians 5:1
- **Adopted into God’s family** – *“The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”* – Romans 8:15
- **Co-Heir with Christ** – *“Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.”* – Romans 8:17
- **New** – *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”* - 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **A Saint** – *“You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”* - 1 Corinthians 6:11
- **Set Apart** – *“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.”* - 1 Peter 2:9
- **A Co-Labourer** – *“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”* - 1 Corinthians 3:9
- **A Sweet Aroma** – *“For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are being saved.”* - 2 Corinthians 2:15
- **Never Alone** – *“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”*  
– Deuteronomy 31:8
- **A Masterpiece** – *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”* – Ephesians 2:10
- **Wonderfully Made** – *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”*  
- Psalm 139:14
- **Holding a Secure Future** – *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”* - Jeremiah 29:11
- **Whole in Christ** – *“In Christ you have been brought to fullness.”*  
- Colossians 2:10

## **PART TWO:**

Read Luke 15:25-32 (story of the older brother)

### **Listening Prayer:**

Engage the same listening prayer exercise as above. Ask Jesus to show you what lies the older brother believed about himself, his identity in the family, and where he believed his value and worth was found (ie. False identity statements).

### **Listening Prayer:**

Ask Jesus to show you if and where you have operated from the same or similar thoughts, feelings, beliefs about yourself.

### **Listening Prayer:**

Ask Jesus to again review with you any place where He wants to speak truth over you in place of the lies you’ve believed.

### **Confession:**

Confess and renounce the lies you’ve believed about yourself and pray for Jesus to show you what is true about your heart from His perspective.

### **Thanksgiving:**

Spend time giving thanks to Jesus for all that He is revealing to you about your true identity in Him!

**Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to accelerate your growth in recognizing God’s voice**

