



# #FOLLOW ME — DIGITAL DISORDERED DESIRES

## Warm-Up Question:

What online shopping store do you use the most and what do you most buy there?

READ: LUKE 15:11-24

### I. DIGITALLY DISORDERED DESIRES: THIS IS WATER

- ▶ Describe what was going on in the son’s heart when he asked for his inheritance and then to “squander” and “spend” everything in “reckless living” (v. 13-14). Then discuss his heart desires when “he came to his senses...” (v. 17 in NIV) and longed for home?
- ▶ Read the quote in the sidebar. How can the act of online shopping, gambling, and looking at inappropriate images each appeal to our heart desires?
- ▶ How are each of these three things still common in 1926? How are they different in 2026, and why is addiction more widespread as a result?

### II. DIGITALLY DISORDERED DESIRES: DEADLY SINS

- ▶ 1) Comfort, 2) purpose, 3) security, & 4) intimacy are all core desires God created in us. Rate the ones you most desire, and how might you look to such things as online shopping, gambling or pornography to fulfill those desires?
- ▶ Guilt says “I’ve done something wrong.” Shame says, “There is something wrong with me.” How do you see both of these in the son in vs. 18-21?
- ▶ Are you tempted by online shopping, gambling and inappropriate images in any way? Have you experienced any guilt or shame as a result of any of these?

### III. DIGITALLY DISORDERED DESIRES: EXPERIENCING LOVE

- ▶ What would the son expect to receive from his father when he returned? What would *you* have expected? Read v. 22-24 again and note all the things the father did. How this would have affected his heart, guilt and shame?
- ▶ Imagine yourself as the son in the middle of that party (v. 23, 25) after experiencing his fathers grace. Now imagine someone came and tempted you to return to your “reckless living.” Why might your heart not be tempted at all?
- ▶ If God is so committed to love you like this (because you’re in Christ), lavishing you with his comfort, purpose, security, and intimacy, how does it affect any disordered desires, especially in regards to shopping, gambling or pornography?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

“...living a just and holy life requires one to be capable of an objective and impartial evaluation of things: to love things, that is to say, in the right order, so that you do not love what is not to be loved, or fail to love what is to be loved, or have a greater love for what should be loved less...”  
- St. Augustine

For Prayer:

- Praise God for loving us as a loving heavenly Father.
- Confess any disordered loves, and especially if your phone is aiding them
- Ask for help to live forgiven and free, holy and happy in regards to any possible digital addictions through our phone

SEVEN RIVERS  
CHURCH

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## Scriptures Used

**Luke 15:11** And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

**Luke 15:17** “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.