

COMING HOME PART 3
"A LOST SON"
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:11-24
SPEAKER: PASTOR SHANE CARROLL
MAY 10-11, 2025

INTRODUCTION

- Week 1 we discovered the importance of seeing God as a loving and compassionate Father.
- Week 2 we saw that the Father restores what's lost.
- This week is the story of the Prodigal Son.

I. THE DEPARTURE

- The Father Heart of God is captured in this one parable.
- Jesus is addressing Fatherhood as a way of describing the covenant relationship between YHWH and Israel.
- Luke 15:11-16, "...A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die...this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living...'"
- We all long to be free; we all long to belong somewhere.
- The younger son is loved enough to be allowed to leave.
- In our brokenness, we all chase after life outside of God.
- Matthew 16:24-26, "Then Jesus said..."If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me...if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?..."
- In God's Kingdom, surrender is the path to experiencing acceptance.

II. THE AWAKENING

- We all have moments where we become aware of our failure, and we are tempted to ignore it or justify it.

- Luke 15:17-19, "When he finally came to his senses, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you...'"
- Before we can come home, we have to:
 - Admit we are lost
 - Recognize our Need for the Father
 - Repent and Confess
- Surrender allows us to receive what we didn't earn.
- Jesus becomes the prodigal on our behalf.

III. THE LOVE OF THE FATHER

- Luke 15:20-24, "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...We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.'"
- The father was watching and longing, for the son to return, not out of duty, out of desire.
- The father runs to the son, looking for an opportunity to display his love and grace.
- The loving father restores him to his sonship immediately.
- The Father's job is to restore what was destroyed.

CLOSE

- When we look for unconditional love and acceptance where it cannot be found we are the Lost Son.
- Deeply forgiven people live with deep grace and forgiveness toward others.
- What's that one thing we hang on to and hope will bring life to us but always brings death?
- Will we choose the path of surrender?
- The heart of the Father is always leading us home.