

COMING HOME PART 4

“THE ROAD HOME”

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15; MATTHEW 5; EXODUS 34

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MAY 17-18, 2025

INTRODUCTION

- Week 1 we talked about the importance of seeing God as a loving and compassionate Father.
- Week 3 was on the Lost Son, but the heart of the Father always leads us home.
- The story we're going to walk through today is a picture of our heavenly Father with us!!

I. THE PROBLEM WITH RESENTMENT

- The younger brother ran off with father's wealth and wasted his life. Came home and met with grace.
- Luke 15:25-28, "...²⁷ 'Your brother is back... We are celebrating because of his safe return.' ²⁸ 'The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him...'"
- Living self-righteously is as dangerous and destructive to us and others as living an obviously sinful life.
- Bitterness and resentment will always create a barrier to experiencing the Father's love.
- Two transactions in the story:
 - The Younger Son - Give me what's mine
 - The Older Son - I've earned what is mine
- Jesus is highlighting that there's nothing we can do to earn the Father's love.
- Luke 18:9-14, "...those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."
- The Problem is the older brother has secured himself (falsely) by doing. He is entitled and demanding.
- It is possible to be in the house but not home.
- The Point is none of us are worthy or made good enough by what we do or don't do. God's love is a gift.

- The Contrast - Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."
- Our Heavenly Father is not opposed to effort; He is just opposed to earning.

II. THE INVITATION TO JOY

- Luke 15:28-31, "The older brother ... 'All these years I've slaved for you... And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends...³¹ 'His father said to him, 'Look, dear son... everything I have is yours...'"
- The older brother is being invited in so he can be found too!
- When we receive being seen and loved, it will allow us to see others, love well, and live with grace.
- None of us can receive the Father's acceptance and love without surrendering our expectations and listening to His voice.
- Two Lessons from the Older Brother:
 - The elder brother cannot figure out that proximity to the Father isn't earned by performance.
 - He hasn't acknowledged or realized he too is lost.

III. BECOMING THE FATHER

- Jesus is inviting His listeners to mature, and He's inviting us to grow.
- The true journey is not to remain a son, but to grow into the heart of the Father. Jesus is a reflection of the Father...
- Exodus 34:6, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin."
- Jesus' greatest hope is that we would become more and more like our Father.

CLOSE

- The Prodigal Son isn't highlighting the issue of salvation; He's highlighting our calling to be sons and daughters.
- Psalm 16:2;9-11, ² I said to the LORD, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you..."