

LESSONS ABOUT COMING HOME

“The Prodigal Son”

Luke 15:11-24

1. There are three questions that we want to consider today.
2. These questions can help us make the journey back home.

I. v. 11-17 WHEN SHOULD WE GO HOME?

A. v. 12-13a When You Leave The Father's House Behind

1. The Context, this young man made a very cruel request. In effect, he was wishing the Father dead. His desire was to throw off the authority of his father and live his life as though his father were dead.) For the Christian, the optimum time for coming home is the instant you realize that you have left the Father's House. As soon as you feel that your love for Him has slipped, as soon as you realize you aren't as close as you were, as soon as you see the signs of straying, that is the moment to bow in repentance before the Father. Backsliding doesn't have to go on to its fullest measure. Repentance can head off tragedy!
2. Peter gives us a good example of this principle. When Jesus called Peter to walk on the water to come to Him, Peter began well, but as soon as he removed his eyes from Jesus, he began to sink. At that very moment, he called out to the Lord and said, "Lord, save me." When he called out to Jesus, the Bible reports that Jesus reached out and lifted Peter from the waves that threatened to engulf him. Matt. 14:28-31)

B. v. 13b When You Begin To live Like The World

1. This young man left the Father's house and began his downward spiral. The text says that he "wasted" what he had. This word refers to the winnowing of grain. This boy took his fortune, all the things received from his father, and he threw them into the wind of sin and watched as they were all blown away.)
2. Anytime we start to walk, talk, act, look, think, or anything else like the lost world around us, and we need to wake up and see the danger we are headed into. You cannot be right with God and live like the world! (Ill. Isa. 59:2)

C. v. 14 When You Lose The Father's Blessings

1. This boy threw all the blessings of the father away and he was left with nothing.) Ill. This is the state of many believers this evening. When they left the Father's house, they were full, but now they have seen sin and loose living take the blessings of the Father from them and they are left with absolutely none of those things which they had enjoyed from the Father.)
2. You see, sin will take everything of value and leave you spiritually bankrupt and destitute. When good things begin to be stripped from one's life, that is a good sign that someone needs to return to the Father's house!

D. v. 15-16 When You Are Left With Nothing

1. This young man found himself flat broke, working as a swine feeder, watching the pigs eat and wanting their food because he had none of his own and no one to care for him.
2. This is a powerful picture of what sin can and will do in your life. When it comes in, it separates you from those who love you, it sends you away from the Father's house and it literally strips you of everything and leaves you broken and starving to death. No wonder

the Bible says, *Pro. 13:15, "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard."*

3. You are deceiving yourself if you think you can sin without consequences.

II. v. 18-19 HOW SHOULD WE GO HOME?

A. v. 18a With Resolve

1. This young man made up his mind that he was going back to the Father. Just as he had left the Father in the beginning, now he leaves everything else behind to go back home.)
2. You have to decide for yourself just what being back in the Father's house and under his blessing means to you. Then, you must be willing to pay whatever price is necessary to make that happen. It takes a resolved heart to get back home! You have got to want God more than you want this world!
3. Allow nothing or no one to hinder your return to the Father. No matter what the cost: A relationship, a job, friends, interests, addictions, etc, they must be given up if you want to come back to the Father. He is worth any price!

B. v. 18b With Repentance

1. Not only did this young man experience a change of circumstances, he also experienced a changed heart. He was willing to confess his sins and place himself under the authority of his father.
2. If you have strayed from the Father's house, you need to come home, but you will have to do it on His terms!

III. v. 20-24 WHAT WILL WE FIND WHEN WE GET HOME?

A. v. 20-21 We Will Find Love – (This young man found something waiting at home that he had never experienced in the far country. That was the love of the Father!) This love was manifested in several ways:

1. A Waiting and Watching Father – (No doubt, the father had looked for the son to return every day. Christian, God hasn't stopped looking for you either.)
2. A Father Moved With Compassion – (This father felt the pain of the son. No doubt the son looked terrible. Probably dressed in rags with the filth of the pig pen all over him. But, the father didn't care. His son was home and that was the main thing!)
3. A Father Who Ran To Meet Him – (It was considered undignified for an older man to run. Yet this father threw these considerations to the wind and ran out to meet this returning son.

1. Do you need to come home today?
2. Obey the gospel or be restored