

Homecoming 2 – Luke 15:11-32

Central Theme

Every believer needs a homecoming at one time or another.

Outline

0. Today we are celebrating homecoming.
 - a) The best known homecoming story in the bible is the story of the lost or prodigal son.
 - Turn to Luke 15
 - b) This is the third of three parables Jesus uses to describe why He spent time with sinners:
 - All three parables relate to dealing with lost items:
 - Sheep, Coins & a Son

Luke 15:11-12 (AV)

And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

1. Here we see a man with two sons.
 - a) We think of the one son as rude and ungrateful.
 - His father wasn't dead, yet he demands his inheritance.
 - b) Yet how often do we go to our Father and demand something?
 - Demand he give us some promise from Scripture, often ignoring the context?
 - Demand He explain to us why something happened or what He is doing?
 - c) How often are our prayers nothing but a list of things we want from God.
 - When I was a child and my grandfather would visit, he ALWAYS would bring my sister and I some little gift.
 - One day I made the mistake of greeting my grandfather with "What did you bring me?"
 - Needless to say, that didn't go over well with my father and I was quickly dissuaded from doing that in the future.
 - How often do our prayers sound like "give me my portion"?

Luke 15:13 (AV)

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

2. Sure enough, as you would expect from a spoiled brat, the kid takes his stuff and hits the road.

a) He doesn't just leave his father, but wastes his money on "prodigal" living.

- The word translated "riotous" in the King James and means "wasteful".
- He spent his money on wasteful living.

b) Do we live our lives wasting the gifts that God has given us?

- I don't just mean wasting money, but wasting the gifts God has given us.
- Time, possessions, opportunities.
 - The next time you read about something where you can help and ignore it.
 - The next time you hear a sermon and the preacher mentions how you should read your bible every day and you claim you don't have the time.
 - The next time you see someone in need and find an excuse not to help.
 - The next time something like this happens, think of the prodigal son.
 - You also are living wastefully.

Luke 15:14-16 (AV)

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

2. It's amazing what you will do when you've lost all that you have.

a) A Hebrew sent to the fields to take care of pigs!

b) A man so hungry he would eat their slop!

c) Unlike Job who had his things taken from him, this boy wasted his.

d) What will we do when we've wasted all that God has given us and we find ourselves lonely, cold and hungry through our own actions?

- History says we'll find someone else to blame, but the blame is ours.
- We'll complain about the opportunities we can't take advantage of, but it's because we've wasted the chances God has given us.
- We wish we had what others do, never thinking about God's blessings we have wasted.

Luke 15:17-19 (AV)

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

3. When he came to himself...

- When he realized what he had done.
 - When he realized how far he had fallen.
 - When he got to the end of his rope, then he decided to return to his father.
- b) How far do we have to fall before we come to our sense?
- How far before we remember the blessings in our Father's house?
 - Maybe keeping someone from their consequences of their actions is really keeping them from coming to their senses?
- c) Are we willing to return, to tell God we have sinned and don't deserve to be called His son or daughter?
- Even if we've been followers of Christ
 - There are areas in our lives that we have kept in the wilderness.
 - We may be in church every Sunday but living in the world the rest of the week.
 - Would you be willing to be a hired servant in heaven?

Luke 15:20 (AV)

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

4. How did the father react to his son's homecoming?

- a) He saw him a great way off, he was probably looking for him.
- b) He was quite literally moved with compassion for him.
- c) He ran to him & fell on his neck.
- Father's didn't run to their sons.
- d) The compassion he felt drove him to not only run, but great displays of affection.
- e) How do you think God the Father will react to a son or daughter who comes home to Him?

Luke 15:21-24 (AV)

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: And bring hither

the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

5. The son started his speech, but didn't get a chance to finish.

a) The father honored his son with a robe, a ring and shoes.

- The robe to cover him.
- The shoes to protect his feet from the world.
- The ring to signify his position as a member of the family.

Esther 8:1-2 (AV)

On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he *was* unto her. And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

Esther 8:8 (AV)

Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

b) Have you ever tried to apologize to God only to be cut off with blessings?

- A promise to return to church only to welcomed before you cross the threshold?
- A promise to tithe only to have bills paid unexpectedly?
- An expectation to have to work to get back into God's "good graces" only to find Him chasing you down to bless you?

c) Every well-to-do family raised a fatted calf.

- This was saved for special occasions.
- It was raised to be tender and tasty, like a good steak.

d) This was not just dinner, but a party to celebrate the return of his son.

- His son that was dead to him, but now is alive again.

e) How do you think God will react when we return to Him?

Luke 15:7 (AV)

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 15:25-28 (AV)

Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

6. The other son hears the commotion and wonders what is going on.
 - a) How often do we wonder what is going on in our Father's house?
 - b) We see joyful celebration and wonder what happened?
 - Maybe we wonder if it's a little TOO joyous?
 - c) But when we see who the celebration is for we get angry?
 - How could you celebrate THIS person's life?
 - d) Don't you know what kind of sinner they are?

Luke 7:36-39 (AV)

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luke 15:29-30 (AV)

And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

7. Like many of us, this brother compares himself to others rather than to what his father has asked.
 - I've been a good son, yet you throw a party for this degenerate?
 - I work hard and you never gave me a goat to celebrate with, and this guy who has wasted all that money gets the fatted calf?
- b) Comparing ourselves to others is dangerous.

John 21:21-22 (AV)

Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me.

- c) Peter was focused on what would happen to John.
- Jesus told him what happens to John is non of Peter's business.
 - Peter was to follow Jesus.
 - We like to compare ourselves to others.
 - Who has the better car.
 - Who has the better prayer life.
 - Which church has more members.
 - Why is this person blessed more than I am!
 - We should not compare ourselves to others, but follow Jesus.
 - How God decides to treat others in non of our business.
 - This comparison has made the second brother bitter and angry.

Luke 15:31-32 (AV)

And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

8. Son, all that I have is your.

- a) Aren't you glad that your brother has returned?
- b) Isn't it right to celebrate that your brother who was dead to us is now alive?

Genesis 4:7 (AV)

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

- c) Our comparison to others leads to bitterness and eventually destruction.
- You may not kill your brother, but bitterness will destroy your joy.
 - You may have a happy face in church, but your heart will become a bitter stone.
 - You may talk the talk, but your life will become bitter and lonely.

Jonah 4:5-11 (AV)

So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city. And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made *it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, *It is better for me to die than to live.* And God said to Jonah, Doest

thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, *even* unto death. Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *also* much cattle?

This parable describes our relationship with God.

9. Everyone has some part of their life they've wasted.
 - a) Not necessarily wasting our whole life with prodigal living.
 - I'm sure there is something in everyone's where you've taken what God has given and wasted it with how you lived.
 - b) Have you've come to your senses in that matter?
 - Have you decided to humbly return to God?
 - c) God, like the father in the parable is waiting and watching for you.
 - He sees you far off.
 - He runs to you.
 - He falls on your neck and kisses you.
 - As you try to ask for His forgiveness, what does He do?
 - Angels, get him a robe, the white one washed in the blood of my Lamb!
 - And get him some shoes, so he can walk comfortably.
 - Oh, and get him a signet ring, so everyone will know THIS is MY BOY or GIRL!
 - While your at it, get the fated calf, it's time to celebrate!
 - d) Are you prepared for your homecoming?