

In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus shares a story of a son who decided he no longer wanted to live under his father's roof. The son asked for his inheritance then left. The son wasted his inheritance on scandalous things until nothing remained. He got a job feeding pigs and ate what the pigs ate. Soon, the son began to curate an apology and terms that he would suggest to his father if he would take him back. The son was willing to become a servant. He just wanted to go home. As he made his way home, he may have felt ashamed and afraid of how he would be received. As he was "a long way off," his father saw him coming and was moved with compassion. His father ran to meet his son. Upon being reunited, the son began his speech, but the father had predetermined how he would respond in this moment. His response would be full of grace and joy because his son who was once lost was now home. We have all been the son in this story in some capacity. Maybe we didn't squander our inheritance, but perhaps our hearts drifted from God's path and were enticed by what we thought the world had to offer us. It breaks God's heart when we choose to walk away from Him or when any of His kids are lost. But what is so beautiful is God is ALWAYS waiting for us to come home!

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We don't have to approach Him with a posture of fear and shame because He has already predetermined how He would respond and that is with grace and mercy. He shows us this by what He was willing to pay to get us back, and that was His very own Son. We are worth Jesus to the Father. We shouldn't be surprised when people in the world act like the world. Rather, we should look at them with mercy and grace because that is how God sees them. Instead of criticizing them and mocking them for their choices, our response should be prayer and compassion. May we

never become so saved that we forget that at one point we were all lost and God found us and brought us back home. There is a world in need of hope and that hope is only found in Jesus because He is the only way to the Father.

Maybe you are wrestling with shame and feel like decisions you have made are too bad for God to accept you. Maybe you don't feel like there is a place at His table for you anymore. Psalm 139 lets us know wherever we find ourselves, God is there. We can't work our way back into God's good graces because it's by His grace we are saved through faith. There is nothing else in all creation that will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. He has removed our sin from us as far as the east is from the west. You don't have to wait, and you don't have to have it figured out. Today can be your day to come back home. God is waiting for you with open arms. He loves you. He is for you. He forgives you. While we are here on earth, may our goal be to populate heaven.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for Your unending grace and mercy. That while we were still sinners, You gave Your son for us so we could be saved. We ask for salvations to break out across the globe. May Your message spread to the darkest places where Your name has never been heard. We ask that this is the season Your lost sons and daughters would come home. May we be faithful stewards with every “one” you place in our care. Continue to draw hearts to Yours. We thank You in advance for the names that will be added to the books of heaven.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 139:1-18 | Ephesians 2:8 | Romans 8:39 | Psalm  
103:12

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**Luke 15:22-24 NIV**

**“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.**