

Gospels: Seeing our Glorious God

[Luke 15:1-32](#)

“Welcome Home”– February 12, 2023



Introduction

Home. When you think of this word, a wide variety of thoughts may flood your mind. You could think of a place - a house or an apartment. You may think of the people with whom you have shared life's joys and sorrow. You may think of it as a place of solace and comfort.

There is no place like home. Somehow, some way, home has a special place in the human heart. Our restless hearts are always looking for a place of rest and satisfaction. We look for this in many ways - a dream job, a spouse, getting to the “empty nest” stage, retirement, etc. But those do not satisfy or bring rest to our heart.

Jesus teaches this parable in the last month of His life on earth. He had been teaching that the only way to the Father was through Him. The Pharisees did not like this message, and they could not understand how Jesus could meet with sinners like you and me. While they were considered the model of religious living, they didn't have a true relationship with God. To them religion was a job, not a joyful relationship. They had forgotten about loving God. ([Matthew 22:34-40](#)) Accountability to God had been replaced with accountability to and fear of man.

Jesus went to the lost. He knew that the “sick” people needed the Physician. And Jesus knew where our restless hearts could find true rest, healing and the answer for their soul. ([Matthew 11:28-30](#)) Jesus was eagerly waiting and receiving sinners.

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1-10

In these verses, we see a desperate search for something lost. In vs. 1-7, the shepherd is relentless about finding the lost sheep. Sheep are wanderers, and they get lost easily because they are not looking up. The shepherd must keep a close eye on them. When one is lost, they will not stop until it is found. How diligent is your search for the lost in which you come in contact? Is there a sense of urgency to your pursuit?

In vs. 8-10, the woman is relentless about finding the coin. The coin won't come back on its own – it's a coin. Notice her joy upon the discovery of the coin. Jesus says that there is joy in heaven when one sinner repents.

In these parables, God is the seeker. We are dead in our sins. Someone - God - must seek us. Can you remember when God found you? Is there someone who needs to hear your story?

2. Read vs. 11 - 32

The son comes to the father and essentially says, “I wish you were dead” when he asks for his inheritance. He wanted to live his life his way. This is how we are as unbelievers. Do you remember your life before becoming a Christian? Did you always think you knew best?

The father divided his property, which is completely contrary to Jewish tradition. Ordinarily, the son would have been rebuked and considered dead. Here the father grants the request by giving the son the freedom to choose. He chose the things of the world. What things of this world tempt you? Is it money? Comfort? Security? Friends? It's so easy to get caught up in those things.

The son left and was gone for some time. It would have taken some time to liquidate his possessions. He goes far away to a gentile country. He's running from his father and his love. Can you imagine the heartbreak of his father?

The son was living it up. He had lots of friends as long as he had money. Then, there was a famine. He ended up feeding pigs. It was at the lowest point of his life - starving - no home, no family, and no hope. There is no pit too deep and dark where God can't see you and rescue you. He sees you and hears you. When you trust Him, He will carry you home. God's love is unfathomable. ([Ephesians 3:18](#)) He IS love.

When the son finally “comes to himself,” he confesses that his sins have “reached as high as the heavens.” He wants to go home, and he thinks he can work his way back. Jesus doesn't want us to work our way back. He has paid the price. That is grace to the sinner. Have you received God's gift of grace or are you trying to make yourself good enough? Has that brought you rest or anxiety?

When the son returns, repentance and reconciliation follow. The father sees him coming because he has been waiting for him. Now, the father runs to him. The son can't even finish his confession before the father receives him in love. This is how the Father receives us when we come to Him. The father sees the son's repentant heart. Can you see the father's joy?

When the older son hears the celebration, he has something to say. He was upset by the celebration and begins to point out all the things that HE had done. Jesus was talking about the Pharisees here. They were quick to point out their religiosity, good works and strict adherence to the Law. All this son cared about was what he earned and what he thought he deserved. The root to his self-righteousness and that of the Pharisees is pride. They don't understand God's forgiveness. If you never understand the forgiveness of God, you won't be able to forgive others. This is where the Pharisees were. Do you find yourself comparing yourself to other Christians, wanting the life they have? Does pride and jealousy fuel your discontent? Do you find it difficult to forgive others? Everything that God has is available for all. Pride has to be put to the side.

Now there is nothing wrong with doing good things out of love and in obedience to God, but those good works won't save you. Have you come home? Do you long for your true home? Our true home is in heaven. ([John 14:1-6](#))

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Luke 9:23-26 “Unashamed of Jesus”
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