

The Journey Home

The Hardest Lesson Learned

- 1 **Luke 15:24** Cool & Gang's *Celebration*:
Celebrate good times, come on! /
There's a **party** goin' on right **here** / A
celebration to last throughout the
years / So bring your good times, and
your laughter too / We gonna celebrate
your party with you. / Celebration / Let's
all celebrate and have a good time!
 - **What Luke 15 is about.**
 - Key part of worship **2 Sam 6.**
 - Heart of God **Dt 14:22**



- 2 **Accept? Problem:** No one would've ever
 - ... **predicted**
 - ... **expected**
 - ... **hoped for**
 - ... **believed that the boy could go**
from **rebel** to **relationship!**
from **insult** to **insight!**
from **pigpen** to **party!**



Except the Father!

Who never stoped believing

- 3 **And this Father placed the ache** in all of
us to find **home!**

[Salton Home]

Last time nearly 20 years after. Same
goal on garage. House had same color &
trim. Same trees in yard, just bigger.
Flash or 2 of memories, but experience
felt weird, even empty. It wasn't home!



- 4 There is a **yearning**, the universal
longing for home.

But it's not really a yearning for a place,
a what, but for a who, for a real father!

Even more, for God to **redefine** what it
means to be **Father** for us **personally.**



- 5 Jesus told a story about a father who had 2 sons to help us understand!

This is **where** learn the truth @ our yearning for home, yet more than home!

Luke 15:11-24

Highlight key points & verses as read!



- 6 Here's **how** we find our way home! It's the hardest lesson **learned**!

Verse 17! my Father's hired servants have it better than me trying to make my life on my own! It's all @ Father!

Now notice **Verse 20**, first phrase! He didn't go for the money, stuff, privilege, power, or expecting anything ... he turned & headed back to **his father**!



- 7 The folks who "got it" @ the Father, @ God, @ home knew what it's like to be **lost** & were so glad to be **found** & be able to come **home to the Father**!

Luke 14:33-15:2

Not called prodigal son. Look @ **verse 11**

2 sons, 2 groups. 2 types of false religion. A son who comes home, finds Father & gets a party as a surprise!



- 8 So the question is **when?** When ...
...are we going to **celebrate** and have a good time at the Father's **party** for those who come **home**?

Hard & ache & wait & watch & pray ... for mine!

verse 32 Had to!

[Campolo's bday party for a prostitute]



- 9 Two questions often asked:
1. Cheap grace? sin now: never pay l8r
2. Why not sow wild oats now?
- A lot never make it back! **[Gary]** wasted time, bad influence, residue **[Michael]**
- God can't be played!
- Grace is never cheap, costs ... Father's dignity lost, insulted
O! brother pays: out of his share!



- 10 So yes, the question is **when**? When quit wasting time, influence, layin' down pain in your heart & those around you?

When are you going to do **vs.20**?

Isn't it time to head home, come back to the Father?

