

Time to Come Home
Luke 15:17-19
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of being home with God.

Intro: 1. What we mean by “home”. Home, as we are using it today is the place where righteousness is upheld and sinfulness is avoided.
2. So leaving the home, for our purposes today, is leaving the way of righteousness.

I. Why some leave

A. Pressure from the world & media (**1 Pt 4:4**)

1. The world’s view of right and wrong is warped.
2. The pressure upon mankind to accept sinfulness is tremendous.

B. To enjoy a life of various sins (**Heb 11:24-25**)

1. Alcohol & Drugs
2. Striving to be rich

C. To commit fornication (**Heb 13:4**)

1. For many in the world, this is simply called “dating”.
2. God has a different name for it – sin.

D. Why the son left (**Lk 15:11-13**)

1. The son left to go and party.
2. He spent his money like so many today. He spent it fast and he spent it on sin
 - a. Even his older brother new what he had been doing and he wasn’t even there (**Lk 15:30**)

II. Ways to come “home”

A. Humble yourself

1. Humble yourself and God will lift you out of the mire of sin (**James 4:10**)
2. Sin casts man into the mire, but God can lift you out (**Ps 69:14a**).
3. The son humbled himself (**Lk 15:17**)

B. Repent

1. We must repent of all sins (**Col 3:5-10**)
2. The son decided to repent (**Lk 15:18-20a; 1 Pt 4:3**)

C. Determine to follow God

1. We must determine to walk in the light (**Titus 2:11-12**).

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Change begins with a humble attitude

1. Arrogance & Pride as sentenced many to torments & an eventual hell (**Pro 16:18,Ps 18:27**)

B. Lasting change begins with a fear of God.

1. When we have proper fear of God, then we will begin to truly follow Him (**Pro 1:7**).
2. Fearing God, means respect, reverence and obedience.

C.. The forgiveness provided by the father (**Lk 15:20-24**)

1. The father of this rebellious son forgave him.
2. The son wanted to changed, he had learned from his mistakes.
3. God will also forgive us when we repent and come home to Him.

Application & Conclusion:

1. God desires for all to come home (**2 Pt 3:9**)
2. Are you ready to come home to the Father? (**Lk 13:34b**)
 - a. Are you willing to come home?
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9