

The Way Home
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: Our God has chosen to liken the home to our relationship with Him.

- A. Jesus often called God our heavenly Father.
 - 1. Jesus likened His concern for Jerusalem to a mother hen and her chicks. **(Mt 23:37)**
 - 2. God likens His people as His sons and He as the Father. **(Mal 1:6)**
 - 3. The love of a father is a reflection of what God is like! **(Mt 7:9-11)**
- B. Our God feels the same pain that earthly fathers do for wayward children.
 - 1. Satan has built a false view of God with many.
 - 2. If we could only see the real grief God has towards the lost and the genuine joy to those who come home! **(Psa 78:40; 95:10; Lk 15:7)**
 - 3. One parable in particular lets us see this nature of our God!

I. A blinded son chooses to leave home (Lk 15:11-12)

- A. How can a man choose to be discontented with God and His provisions?
 - 1. Satan has always sought to plant pride in our hearts. **(Gen 3:4-6)**
 - 2. When we seek to focus on ourselves to hide our insecurity we can put on the mask of pride.
 - 3. God is a God of order, truth and consistency. Satan will use these great attributes of God and convince man that he is being cheated!
- “No Christian should cling to the old simply because it is old. Neither should the new be desired because it is new. *Many things are old because they have been tried, proven, and not found wanting.* Things are not right because they are old, but often are old because they are right. On the other hand, things are not wrong because they are new and different.” – James Adams, Splendid Discontent
- B. This son sought a separation from his loving father.
 - 1. Once the sin of pride and bitterness has set in, you no longer can see straight! Things that are good are seen as bad. **(Isa 5:20)**
 - 2. Over the years I have seen this terrible pattern among some. It is not a matter of “if” but “when” one leaves. Watch your relationships! **(Prov 22:24-25)**
 - 3. It is truly a sad sight when one forsakes reason for the “non-traditional” path of Satan! **(1 Tim 6:3-5; Jer 2:13)**
 - 4. There is a certain crash that will come in time for those who think they are wiser than God on how to live one’s life! **(Jer 2:13)**
 - 5. Those who cease to be thankful and leave God can do so! **(Rom 1:21-22, 24, 26, 28)**

II. A blinded son finds “friends” and “encouragement” in the world (Lk 15:13)

- A. You will find lots of “support” when you leave God. **(Jn 16:20; 1 Jn 4:5)**

1. The world hates “rules.” Worldly people are quick to condemn and ostracize those who seek to stand by God’s standards. **(1 Pt 4:3-5)**
 2. Please think very carefully when you label teaching as “negative.”
 3. It grieves me to see a wounded Christian seeking “help” from scoffers.
- B. Satan’s support is never consistent, reliable and fair. He will use you and cast you away as trash.
1. Imagine Judas actually thought to express his remorse towards those who sought to lie about and murder Jesus! **(Mt 27:3-4)**
 2. The prodigal son had such a rude awaking. Sometimes the best thing that could happen to us is to be “stabbed in the back.”
(Lk 15:14-16; Jer 14:3)
 3. All of his “friends” when he had money are now long gone. What now?

III. A blinded son remembers and finds sight

- A. A moment of truth can come when you hit rock bottom.
1. Can you be honest with yourself and see the empty world you live in?
(Deut 28:64-67)
 2. Sadly, many choose to stay in pride and then blame others. How many prodigals have *blamed godly parents* for the mess they made!
 3. When this son moved from a relative view of truth to a propositional one, then he could reason again. Some never make this change.
(Num 16:41; Eph 4:14-15)
- B. Restoring a memory about the true nature of God will be your path home.
1. How many times has our God taught this truth? **(Ezk 16:3-13, 22)**
 2. Our God has never changed His nature. Why does one choose to forget?

III. A once blinded son humbly finds his way home (Lk 15:17-24)

- A. Do you know who really loves you? (Ex. I love him more!)
1. The son knew that to return to his father would bring that ordered, consistent, “traditional” life.
 2. He also knew that there is where his father lived.
 3. The father was looking down that road to see him coming.
(1 Jn 4:16-19)
- B. An honest life without excuses is a life of peace and joy.
1. The first step to pride is being dishonest with yourself. **(Gal 6:3)**
 2. Knowing God’s nature makes honesty with God natural.
 3. What does God think about a sinner who repents? **(Lk 15:10)**
 4. “Religious” people often choose to live in blindness. **(Lk 15:1-2, 32)**

Conclusion: Do you know the way home?

- A. I often have dreams that I have returned to my childhood home.
- B. What a great reunion we will have in heaven. Are you ready? **(Rev 21:3-4)**