

Speaker: Matthew Smith  
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Reading: Luke 15:11-32

2 boys with tremendous privilege, both had wealth and comfort.

The younger decided it wasn't good enough. He didn't like the restriction placed on Him. He wanted to go his own way.

Adam, in a similar position, having been created by God, needed nothing that he didn't have. The garden was absolutely perfect. As the serpent came and spoke to Eve he encouraged her to go her own way. "[By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin](#)"(Rom 5:12).

The boy rebelled against his father, we are no different. "[All we like sheep have gone astray](#)"(Isa 53:6). Has there ever been a day when God was not centre of life? That is sin and we all fall short.

The boy went into a far country, a distance was created. Sin puts a gap between us and God. After sin came in God no longer communed daily with Adam and Eve. God is holy and cannot have sin in His presence.

God hates sin but loves the sinner.

If you don't get salvation the gulf will exist for all eternity. You will end up in hell. "[The wages of sin is death\(eternal death\) but the gift of God is eternal life](#)"(Rom 6:23).

There was an emptiness in life away from his father. He left his father with pockets full but soon the money ran out. He had to get a job, feeding pigs. The pigs were a filthy unclean animal to the Jews. He was so hungry he would have eaten the food beside the pigs.

Sin will leave you empty.

God created us in His own image and for His glory. Life is about pleasing God, our creator, maker and sustainer.

["Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"](#)(Mat 11:28).

If you haven't trusted Christ as Saviour and had sins forgiven your life is empty.

["There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the ends thereof are the ways of death"](#) (Prov 14:12).

The boy didn't go home and try to get things back how they were. He knew he had displeased the father. He knew he had sinned and fallen short, He knew he deserved nothing. He was going to plead for mercy.

No one will be saved unless they realise they need to be saved.

["Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"](#) \*Luke 13:3,5)

["God commandeth all men everywhere to repent"](#)(Acts 17:30).

Why do we need to repent?

“He hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world”(Acts 17:31).

Two men went to temple to pray, one self righteous wanted all to hear his prayer, he listed all the good he had done. Another man was a sinner, he wouldn't lift eyes up, bowed head. “God be merciful to me a sinner” \*Luke 18:9-14).

We must come to God like that “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God”(Rom 3:23).

Before the boy reached the father's land the father had welcomed him home.

If we come back to God confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness that is what He wants to hear.

This story falls short, God did not wait for us to go to Him. He came to earth to seek us, “The word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). He came down to the cross of Calvary, “He was made sin”. God looked down and saw the Lord Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice and poured judgment for sin upon Him.

“The Father sent the Son” (1 John 4:14) to pay the price of forgiveness and redemption.

The barrier of sin can be removed. God is able to forgive because Jesus died for us.

When he came, there was great celebration. “There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:7,10).

The older Son refused to come in. Many go to church and feel close to God but refuse to truly come.