



COME ON HOME

February 11, 2019

LUKE 15:11-20 NIV – (11) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. (12) The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. (13) "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. (14) After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. (15) So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. (16) He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. (17) "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! (18) I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. (19) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' (20) So he got up and went to his father.

At some point of life, we all have messed up! Many of us through our thinking and our choices. The younger son realized this very fact! "He made terrible choices. The worst choice we could ever make is to distance or simply remove ourselves from the presence of our Father. But many of us have and many are still doing it. Today, I want to talk to those who now realized what they have done. To those who are embarrassed. To those who don't believe that they are worthy or valuable. Go to Him. That alone is a sign of repentance. Put your pride down and go to Him. You fell like crying out? Then do so, but go to Him and cry out. Now there are four things I want to share with those who haven't received Jesus as their personal Savior and have made the same choices as mentioned above:

- 1)** He loves you and wants a relationship with you. (**Romans 5:8** and **1 John 4:10**)
- 2)** But sin separates you from Him because He is holy. (**Habakkuk 1:13** and **Ephesians 2:1**)
- 3)** So He wants you to know that He came to earth as a man to die on the cross and to pay for the penalty your sins. (**Isaiah 53:6** and **Romans 6:23**)
- 4)** Today, right now, receive His gift of salvation today with your faith and trust solely in Him. (**John 1:12** and **Romans 10:9-10**)

Confess to Him that you have sinned against Him and that you are in need of His salvation. Ask Jesus to forgive you and that you receive Him as your Lord and Savior. Tell Him that you are trusting Him in His finishing work on the cross on your behalf. And then, thank Him for saving you, accepting you and adopting you into the kingdom family. Ask Him to help you walk in close step with Him.

Oh, and "Welcome home!"

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 8:38-39

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God is often closest when He seems the furthest away.