

COME HOME TO GOD
Ashes To Easter – Lent 4
March 10, 2013

Luke 15:11-17a (NIV) *“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not 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. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷When he came to his senses...”*

- God is **PATIENT** enough to not give up.

Luke 15:20 (NIV) *“... While he (the son) was still a long way off, his father saw him...”*

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) *“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

- God is **PASSIONATE** enough to show extreme love.

Luke 15:20b (NIV) *“... he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”*

- God is **FORGIVING** enough to accept you.

Luke 15:21 (NIV) *“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ”*

HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT PERSONAL?

1. Come to your SENSES.

Luke 15:17 (NIV) *“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’ ”*

2. Come CLEAN.

Luke 15:18 (NIV) *“I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.”*

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) *“People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.”*

3. Come HOME.

Luke 15:18 (NIV) *“I will set out and go back to my father...”*

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT) *“Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence.”*

4. Come CELEBRATE.

Luke 15: 22-24 (NIV) *“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”*

Romans 5:11 (NLT) *“So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”*

5. Come join the FAMILY.

Luke 15:28-30 (NIV) *“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”*

Luke 15:31-32 (NIV) *“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”*