

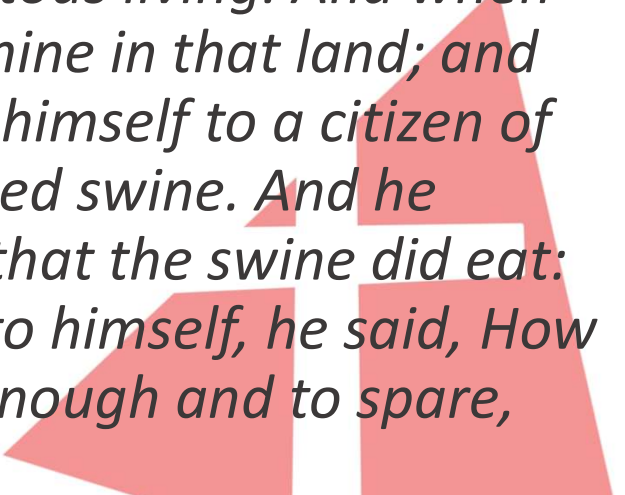
COME HOME, THE FATHER IS WAITING

September 24th 2017



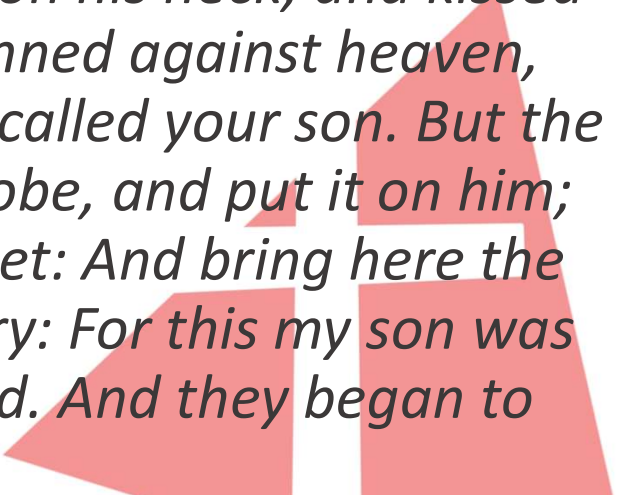
THE WAITING FATHER

And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days later the younger son gathered everything together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent everything, there arose a great famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!



THE WAITING FATHER

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you, And am no more worthy to be called your son: make me as one of your hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight, and am no more worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet: And bring here the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:11-24)



WHAT'S GOING ON?

- **2 sons**

- Younger son representing the “tax collectors and sinners”
- Older son representing the Pharisees

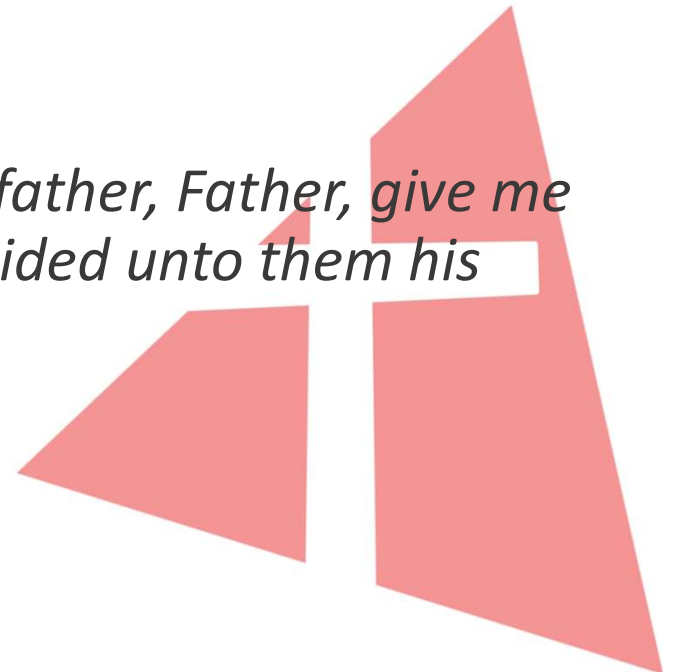


THE DEPARTURE

○ The younger son wants to leave

- There is no other reason for the younger son to ask for his inheritance than wanting to leave

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. And he divided unto them his living.

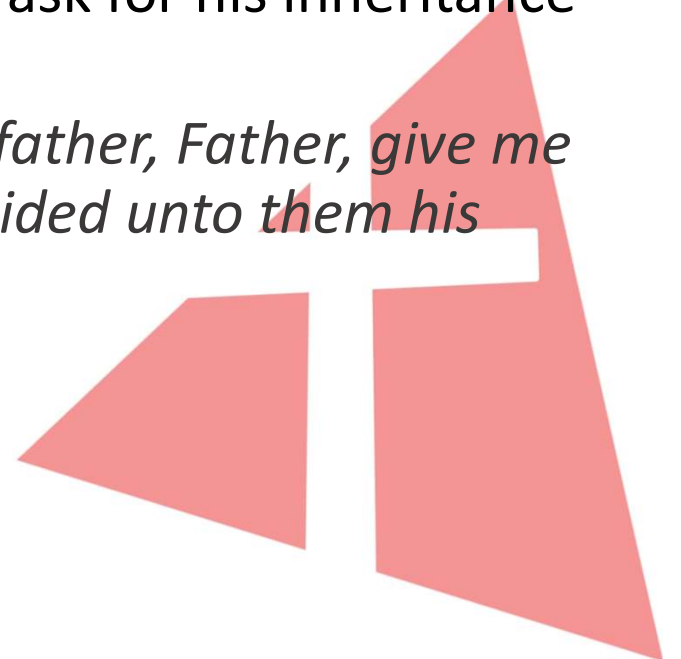


THE DEPARTURE

- **The younger son wants to leave**

- The younger son is very, very, very bold to ask for his inheritance

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. And he divided unto them his living.



THE DEPARTURE

- **The younger son wants to leave**
 - The father grants the son's request

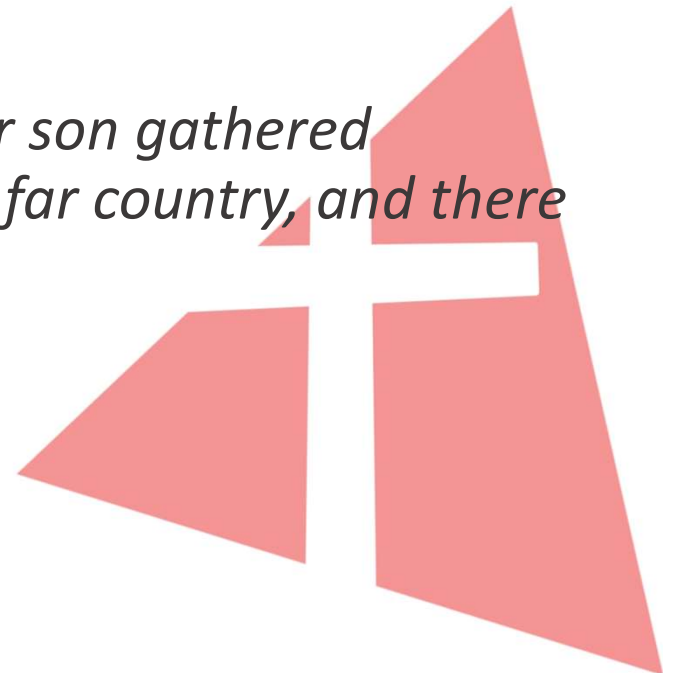
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THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

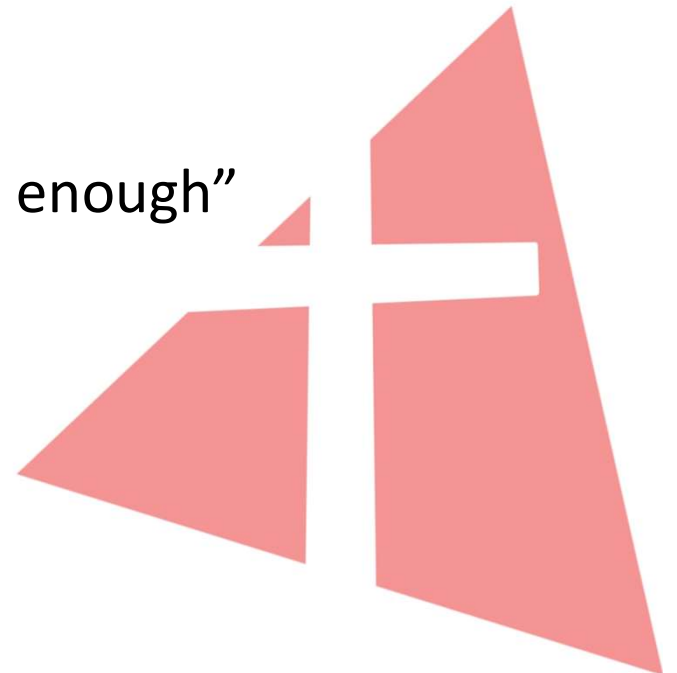
- **As expected, the son leaves**

Luke 15:13 And not many days later the younger son gathered everything together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.



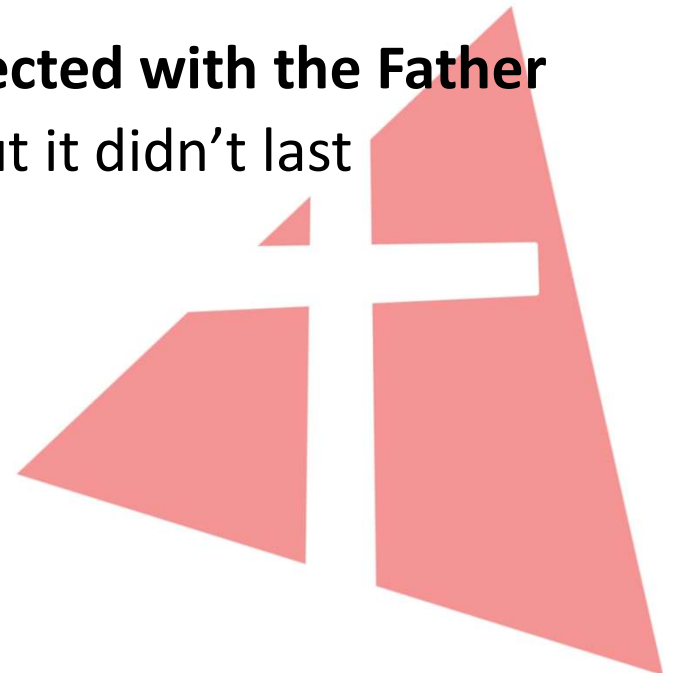
THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

- **The mindset in the Father's house**
 - “Everything I have is yours”
 - He didn't have to worry about “not having enough”



THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

- **This principle only works when we are connected with the Father**
 - The son probably had “fun” for a while, but it didn’t last

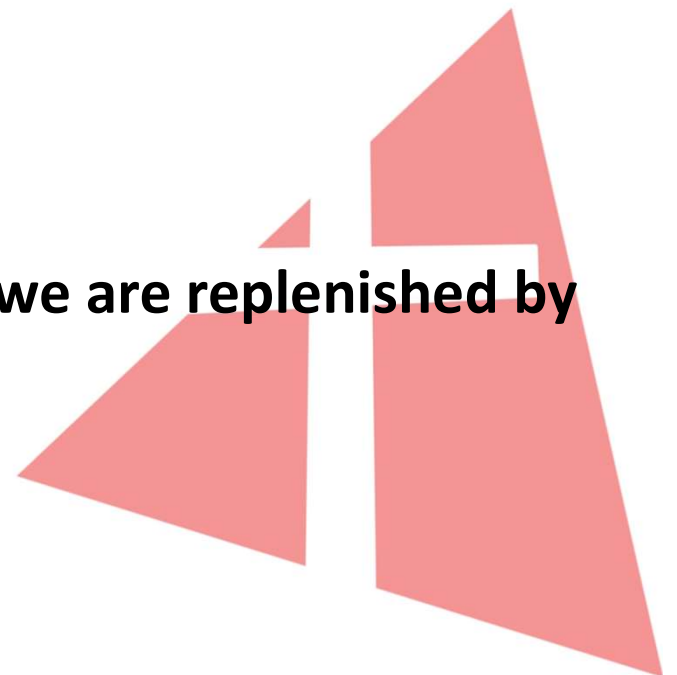


THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

- **God wants us to be generous**

- Time & energy
- Personal care
- Money
- ...

- **But we can only be generous in this world if we are replenished by God all the time**



THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

○ The famine time

- God often sends us personal famines when we are running away from Him
- He doesn't rescue the son
- He doesn't go after him

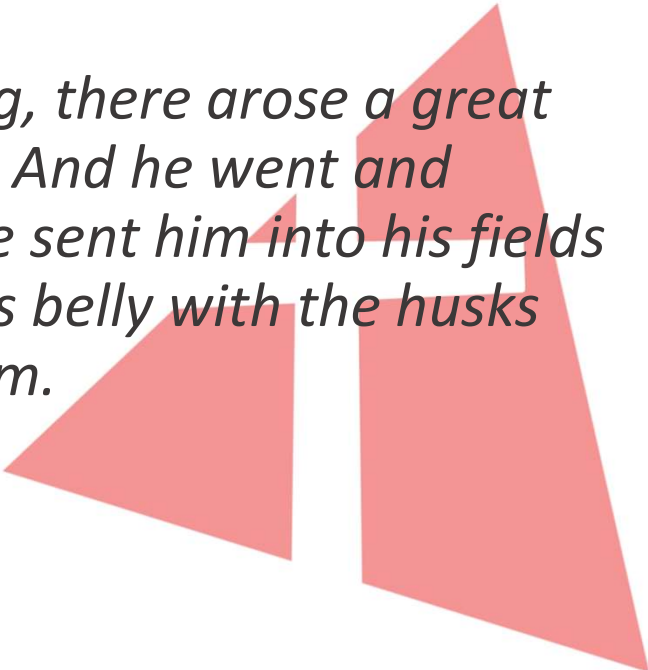
Luke 15:14-16 And when he had spent everything, there arose a great famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

○ The famine time

- This is the most disgusting job for a Jewish person at the time

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The image features two large, semi-transparent red geometric shapes in the bottom right corner. One is a triangle pointing upwards and to the right, and the other is a larger, more complex shape that resembles a stylized arrow or a large 'A' shape, also pointing upwards and to the right.

THE FAR-COUNTRY TIME

○ The famine time

- This is the most disgusting job for a Jewish person at the time

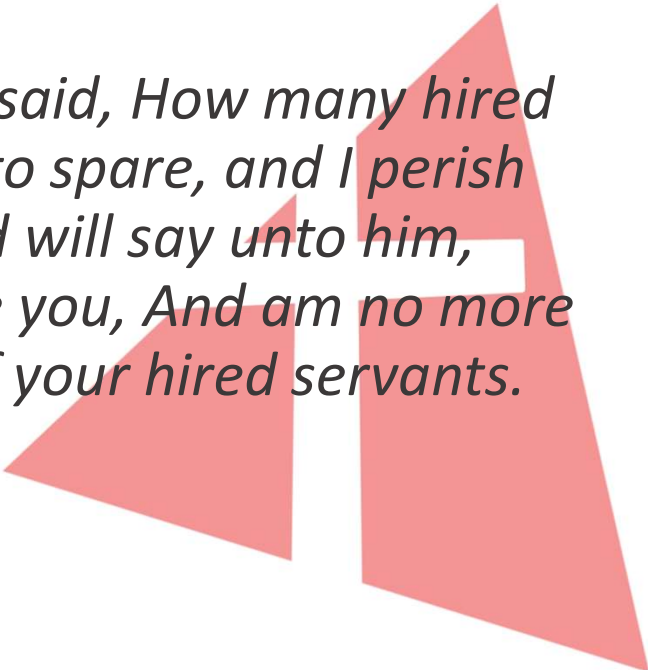
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THE RETURN

○ The plan to return

- He realizes the goodness of the Father

Luke 15:17-19 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you, And am no more worthy to be called your son: make me as one of your hired servants.

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent red triangles of various sizes and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

THE RETURN

○ The plan to return

- He thinks he has lost his identity
- Tries to “convince the Father” to let him back into the house

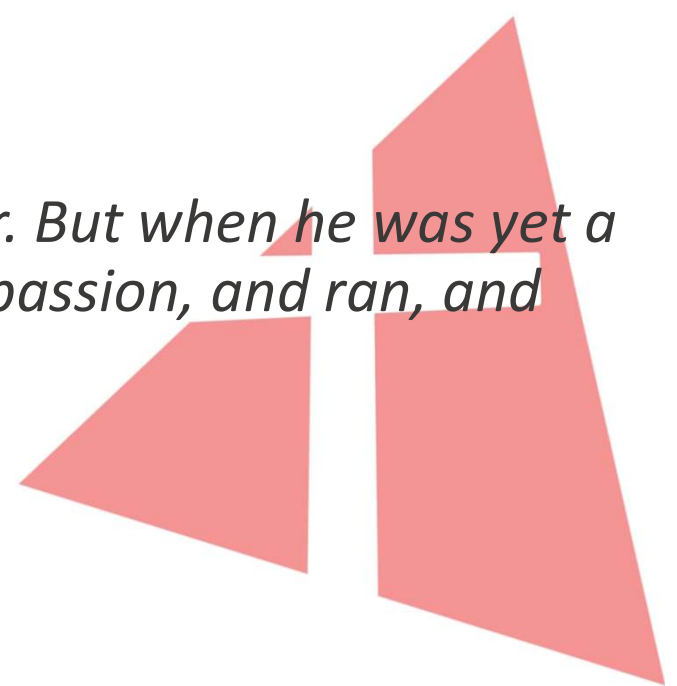
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THE RESTORATION

○ The love of the Father

- Saw him early
- Compassion

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

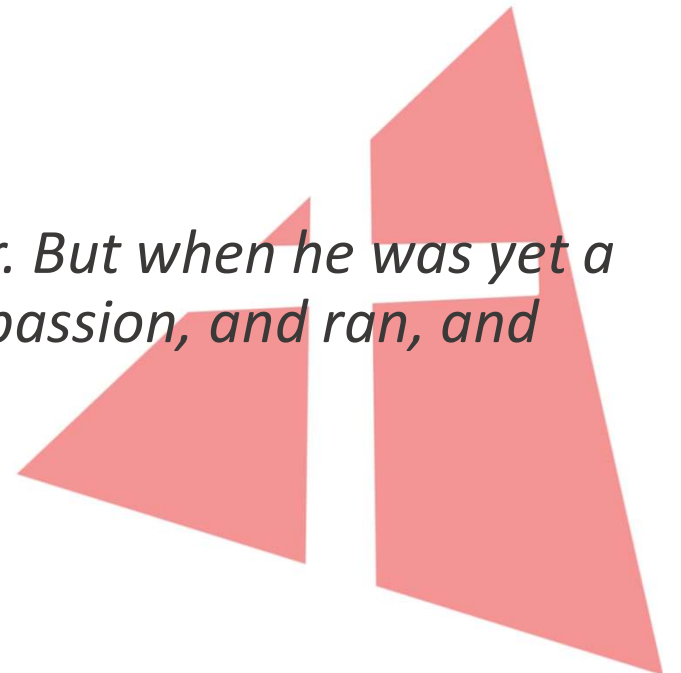


THE RESTORATION

○ The love of the Father

- Ran
- Fell on his neck
- Kiss

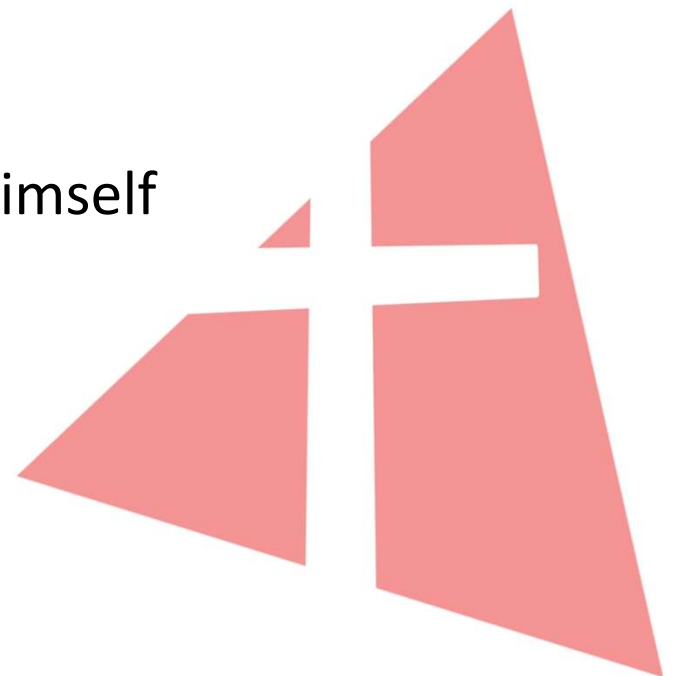
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THE RESTORATION

- **Jesus embraced us like that**

- We are the smelly, stinky, ugly ones
- Jesus took all that shame and guilt upon Himself



THE RESTORATION

- **The son still feels rejected**

Luke 15:21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight, and am no more worthy to be called your son.

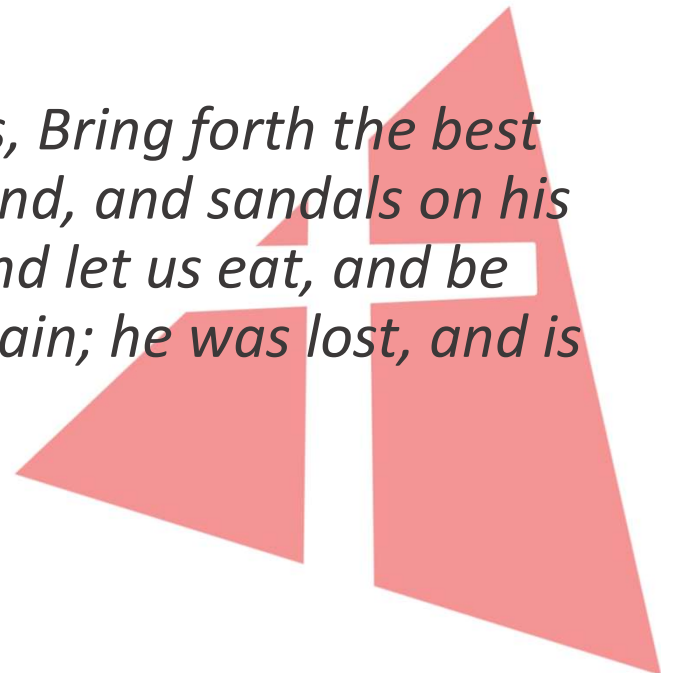


THE RESTORATION

○ The restoration

- Robe of family identity
- The ring of authority

Luke 15:22-24 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet: And bring here the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

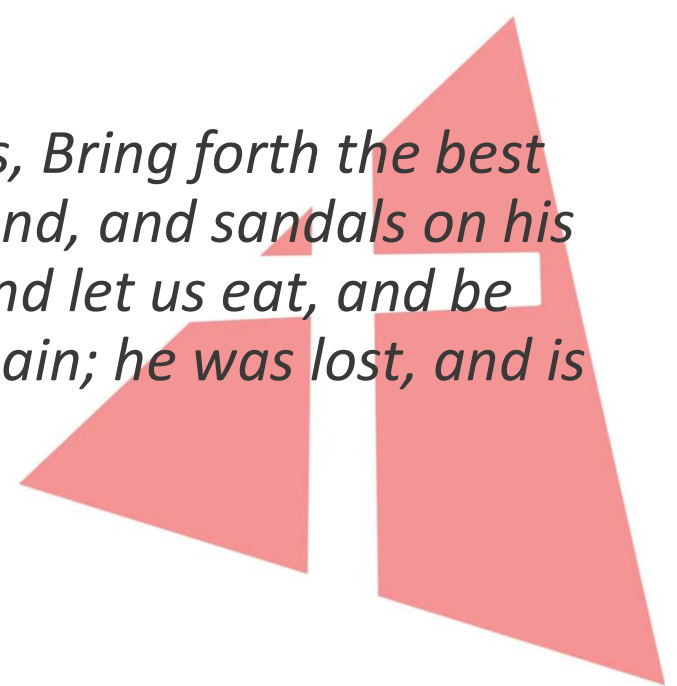


THE RESTORATION

○ The restoration

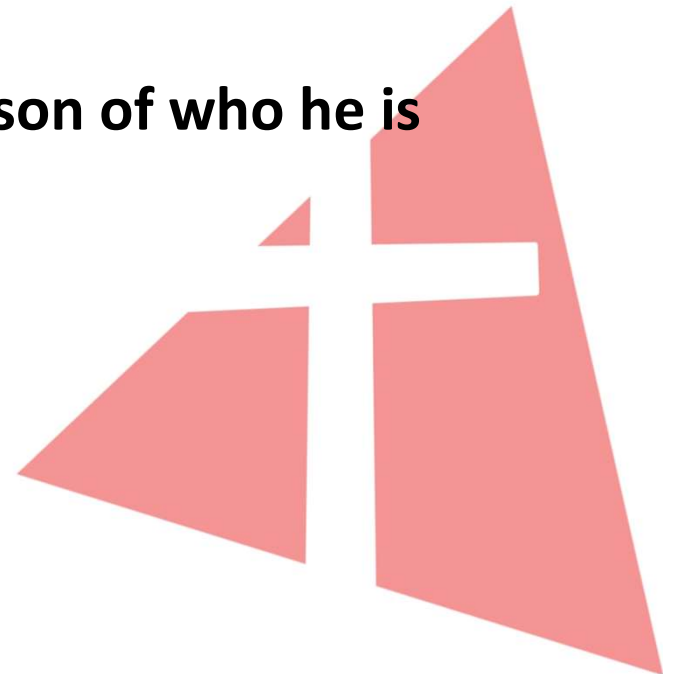
- The sandals of possession
- The celebration in front of everybody

Luke 15:22-24 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet: And bring here the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.



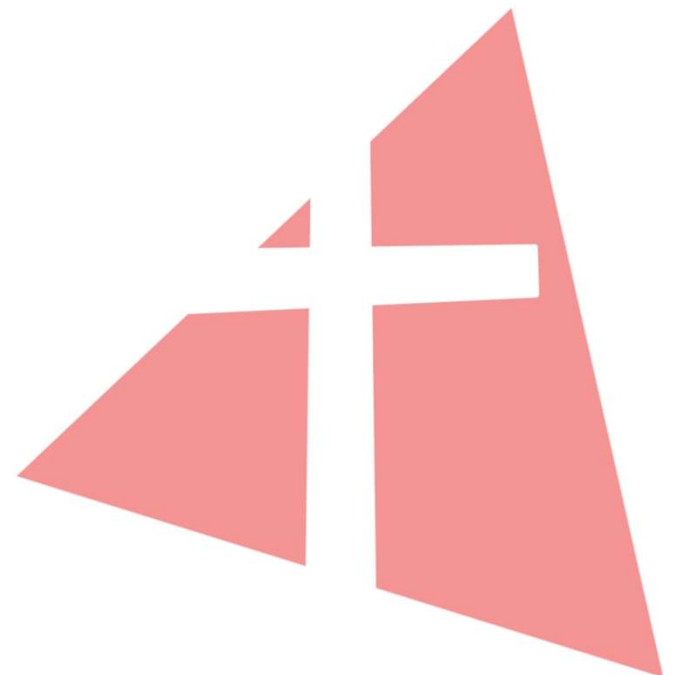
THE CELEBRATION

- **The father wants his servants to remind the son of who he is**



WHY?

- **The father wants to renew the son's mind**



WHAT ABOUT US

- **Upon returning to God**

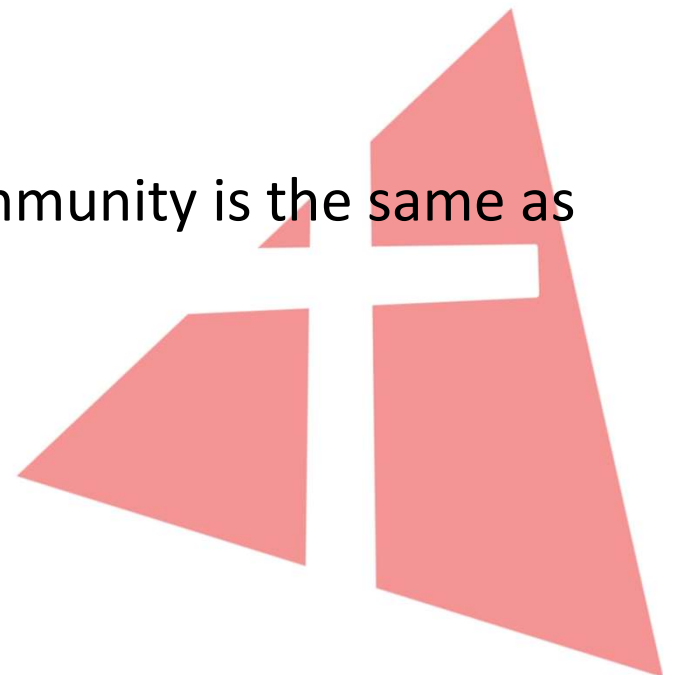
- Our Identity is immediately restored
- We are immediately given authority
- We immediately receive all the riches of heaven



WHAT ABOUT US

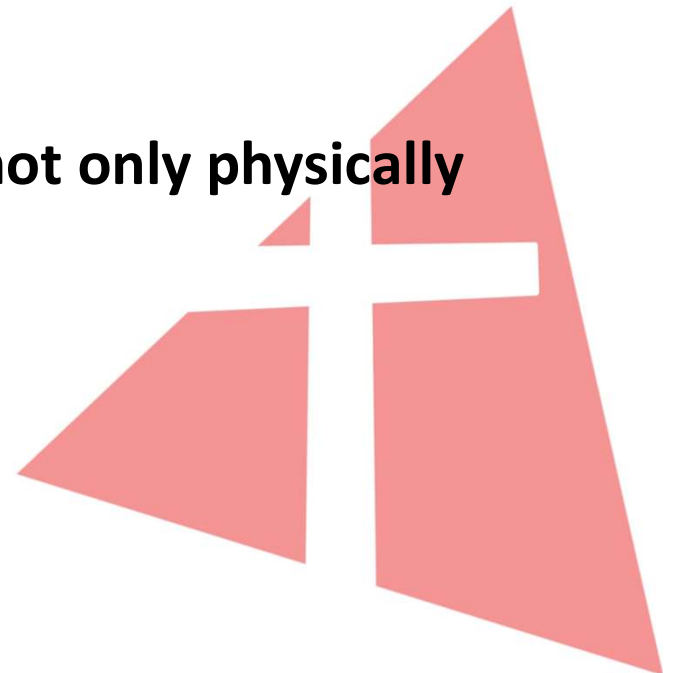
- **We need the community**

- Community is NOT going to church
- Community is sharing life
- Distancing ourselves from that kind of community is the same as distancing ourselves from God



WHY DID THE FATHER ALLOW THE SON TO LEAVE?

- Before, the son was physically present, but his heart was somewhere else
- After the return, he now had the chance to not only physically return, but also return from the heart



WHAT ABOUT JUSTICE?

- **Does the father simply ignore the son's failure?**
 - Restoration comes first
 - Discipline can only happen in light of the knowledge of our identity



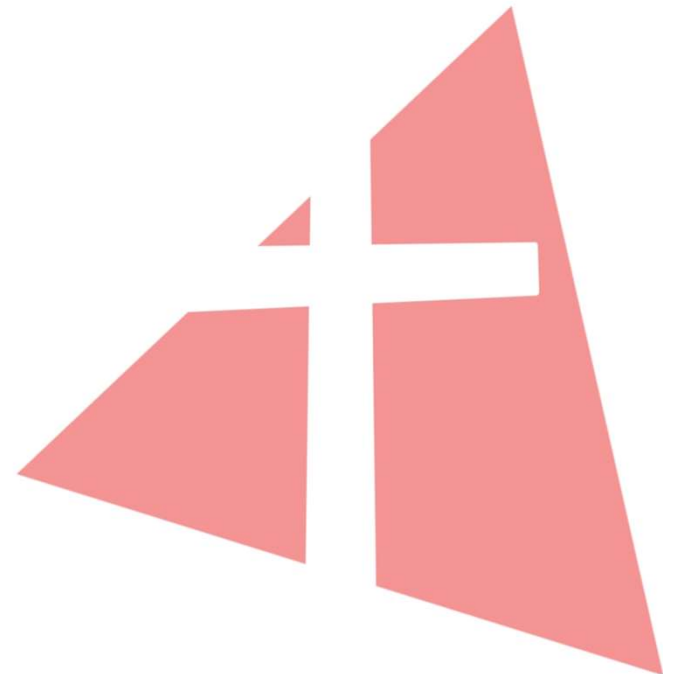
WHAT ABOUT JUSTICE?

- **We can only deal with our sin when we are settled in our identity as adopted sons and daughters of God**



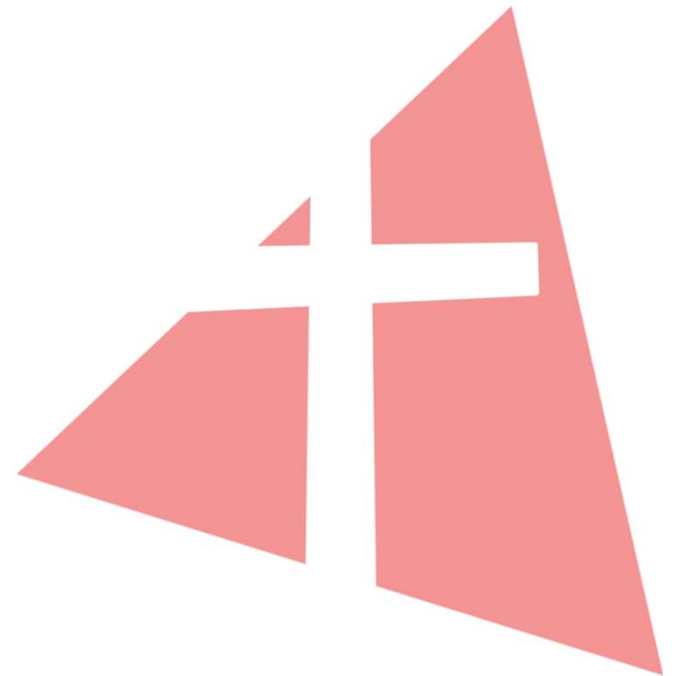
THE SON HAS A CHOICE

- How will the son respond?



WE HAVE A CHOICE

- **How will you and I respond?**



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RETURN?

- Do you want to come home today?

