

P.M. OUTLINE
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THE WAY BACK HOME

(Luke 15:17-24)

INTRODUCTION

Thank God "prodigals" may return.

Yes, he took from his father and left home. Yes, "he wasted his substance in riotous living."

Yes, "he spent all." Yes, "he began to be in want."

Yes, "he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat."

Yes, "no man gave unto him."

And, yes, even after all of this, it is possible to return home.

Hymn #936 Lord, I'm Coming Home

THE WAY HOME

1. (v17) "And when he came to himself"

He could have been so remorseful that he sinks deeper in the miry clay.

The good news is that he doesn't, and he makes good his resolutions.

"I will arise"

Noble deeds begin with a great resolution: "I will" and "I can"

He overcomes thinking about the hardships ahead in making this decision.

"I will go"

Many make a resolution, feel really bad, express sorrow; then, stay in the hog-pen.

He is determined to leave, and he does.

"I will say ..."

It's a wonderful confession because sin cannot be solved by denying it.

He puts the blame on himself. Will Rogers said there are 3 stages in American history:

passing of the buffalo, passing of the Indian, and passing of the buck.

"I have sinned against heaven, and before thee" - (Psalm 51:3-4)

"And he arose" - he got up and got out of "the far country."

2. (v20) "and came to his father"

He knew the right place to go: to the place he left and to his father.

He overcame all of the hardships of going home: confession, expecting discipline,
and perhaps not knowing the reception he will receive.

CLOSE - Next week's lesson will focus on the reception he received from the father.

Knowing the reception we'll receive, it should motivate us to return home.