

Coming Home

Luke 15:11–32

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker:

How do you typically respond when you make a mistake (run, fix it, improve, etc)? Why?

Introduction

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of two sons who were both far from their father, but in very different ways.

- **The Squandering State of Mind:** *"I want what I want."*
- **The Slaving State of Mind:** *"I deserve what I've earned."*
- **The Saving State of Mind:** *"My grace is enough."*

The good news is that **the Father invites both sons home.**

1. The Squandering State of Mind

"I want what I want."

Read: Luke 15:11–17

The younger son wanted his inheritance and the freedom to pursue his own desires. Eventually, he found himself at rock bottom.

- What do you see in the younger son's attitude toward his father?
- Why do we sometimes create distance between ourselves and God when we're pursuing what we want?
- What are some ways our desires can cause us to squander what God has entrusted to us?
- **Where are you most tempted to say, "I want what I want," instead of trusting God?**

Key Thought:

What you have done does not have to determine who you are.

2. The Slaving State of Mind

"I deserve what I've earned."

Read: Luke 15:25–30

The older son never left home, but his heart was far from his father. He became angry when his brother received grace.

- Why was the older brother so angry?
- How can serving God turn into resentment, comparison, or entitlement?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to celebrate when someone else receives grace?
- **Where are you tempted to think, "I deserve this because I've done the right things"?**

Key Thought:

Grace isn't something we earn.

3. The Saving State of Mind

"My grace is enough."

Read: Luke 15:20–24, 31–32

The Father responds to both sons with compassion. The younger son comes home empty-handed, while the older son is reminded that everything the Father has is already his.

- What does the Father's response to the younger son reveal about God's character?
 - Why is it significant that the Father runs toward his son?
 - How does the Father's grace challenge both the squandering and slaving mindsets?
 - **What would it look like for you to live this week from the belief, "God's grace is enough"?**
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Personal Reflection

Take a moment of silence and ask:

Which state of mind is most evident in my life right now?

- **Squandering:** *I want what I want.*
- **Slaving:** *I deserve what I've earned.*
- **Saving:** *God's grace is enough.*

What is one step God is asking me to take?

Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Those who are **far from God** and need to come home.
 - Those who are **working for God's approval** instead of resting in His grace.
 - Those who need to receive the Father's **compassion and forgiveness**.
 - NCC to be a church that **celebrates when people come home**.
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This Week's Challenge

Notice your state of mind.

When you catch yourself **squandering**, ask:
"What am I pursuing instead of God?"

When you catch yourself **slaving**, ask:
"What am I trying to earn that God wants me to receive by grace?"

When you recognize God's **saving grace**, thank Him and extend that grace to someone else.

Remember:

Squandering: *"I want what I want."*

Slaving: *"I deserve what I've earned."*

Saving: *"My grace is enough."*