

TITLE: Starting Points

Text: Luke 15:11-32

“And He said, ‘A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.’ So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living...’” (Luk. 15: 11-13)

STARTING POINTS CAN BE CHARACTERIZED BY:

1) The Power to **RELEASE**

“And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.” (Luke 15:14-16) ESV

2) The Humility to **RETURN**

“But when he came to himself, he said How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. And he arose and came to his father...” (Luke 15:17-20) ESV

3) The Courage to **FORGIVE**

“And he said to him Son you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost and if found” (Luke 15:31-32) ESV

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) ESV

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34) ESV

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed” (James 5:16) ESV