



NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: April 13, 2026

Scripture: [Luke 15: 11-32](#)

Title: Find Our Way Home

Author: Esther Baird

Read: [Luke 15: 11-32](#)

Devotional:

I realize we just celebrated Easter, but I need to discuss one of the greatest Christmas traditions of all time. Trees? Gifts? Lights? Nope. (Well... maybe lights.) I'm talking about Trans-Siberian Orchestra and their annual Christmas tour.

Either you're in or out on this point - - haters gonna hate. But I am a die-hard TSO fan. The fire, the big hair, the electric guitars (and violins), the strobe lights, the rock opera... all about Christmas. And when I'm not busy wondering if my eyebrows just got singed off, I'm waiting for my favorite song, "Find Our Way Home."

It's a long, rocking ballad about a man trying to find his way home for Christmas. And it resonates because, at some level, we're all doing that. We are all trying to find our way to where we truly belong, where we are truly loved, where we can truly be home.

I want to look at our passage, the parable of the prodigal son, today in light of our desire, our need, and our reality that is Jesus is calling us home.

You see, Jesus tells the story of two sons. The well-known pastor Timothy Keller famously retitled this passage "The Prodigal Sons" - - plural. He pointed out that each son represents "a different way to be alienated from God."

The younger son's alienation was obvious. He squandered his inheritance and made all the classic mistakes. His life of reckless living eventually landed him in a pig pen, desperate and nearly starving. It's easy to see why he needed to come home. You might even identify with him. Maybe you've tried to fill the deeper longing in your life with things that, as Pastor Matt says, "over-promise and under-deliver."

But it's possible you may identify with the second son.

He did everything right. He stayed. He followed the rules. He didn't run off with the wrong crowd. He never missed a Sunday, volunteered in the nursery once a month, got good grades, landed a good job, and hung his fancy diploma on the wall.



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Devotional cont.

And yet when his brother returned and the father threw him a party, the older brother was furious.

He stood outside, not at the party... not at home.

Both brothers needed to find their way home.

Clearly, the younger brother's wild living didn't earn him a place in the father's house. But neither did the older brother's careful rule-keeping. His "good behavior" couldn't earn the father's love either.

Both brothers longed for the father's approval. And what this story reveals is that the father's love had always been there despite both rebellion and self-righteousness. The older brother thought his good deeds should count for something. But his good deeds weren't good enough. None of us can live perfectly.

Only one person has done that: Jesus.

Jesus is the only one who truly deserves the Father's love, and he shares that love with us. Whether we've run far away from God or stayed close trying to impress him, neither path gains the Father's love, neither path brings us home.

What gains us the Father's love is the One who came into our world full of pig pen mud, and smugness, and made his home with us.

In the parable, the father says, "All that is mine is yours." Through Jesus, that same promise is true for us: his heart, his life, his forgiveness, his victory over sin and death—he offers it all to us.

Jesus calls us home.

He meets us whether we're far down the road in rebellion or standing angrily in the field of self-righteousness. And he says, "Welcome home, let's celebrate!"

Because we were all lost, and in Jesus, we are found. We were dead, but now we are alive.



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Reflection Questions:

- Which brother do you identify with more right now—the younger brother who ran away or the older brother who tried to earn approval? Why?
- Where in your life might you be trying to “earn” God’s love rather than receive it as a gift?
- What does the father’s response in this story teach you about God’s character and his heart toward you?
- Is there an area of your life where Jesus may be inviting you to “come home” to him?
- How might remembering God’s grace toward you change the way you treat others this week?

Notes:
