

# Finding Our Way Back to God – 9/19/21

Pastor Rick – Awakening to Help

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## Message Summary:

*When we admit we are powerless to fulfill our longings on our own, we'll discover there's help and that help has a name. His name is Jesus.*

### (1) Awakening to Longing.

We awaken to our Longing when we begin to realize that these longings are God-given and can only be met in a relationship with Him.

### (2) Awakening to Regret.

In this awakening we come to a crossroads that will move us in one of two directions.

#### Sorry Cycle

We get caught in a continuous pattern of searching for fulfillment on our own terms and finding disappointment

The first step is in the 12 Steps: "We admit that we are powerless over our addiction."

*"We would rather be ruined than changed. We would rather die in our dread than climb the cross of the present and let our illusions die."*

### (3) Awakening to Help.

*Luke 15:17-19*

#### Repentance

"I can't do this on my own."

"God, if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the willingness to turn toward you for help."

*Luke 15:20*

What kind of God do we find when we come back home? What kind of Father is waiting for us?

As Jesus tells this story, his audience would have had a hard time imagining the scene he's painting.

KESAHAAH

Do you understand that this is the God who waits for you, too?

Help has a Name: It's Jesus

- A God who is present promising *to never leave us on our own*.
- A God who is full of grace, *refusing to condemn us even when it's deserved*.
- A God who is humble, *bending down to care for our needs*.
- A God who is for us, *sacrificing himself when we were helpless to save ourselves*.

*Isaiah 58:9*

*1 John 5:14-15*

You can *always* come home!

## Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Lord teaching you lately through this series or in other areas of your life?
2. Where in your life is it hard to ask for help? Why?
3. Read Luke 15:17-19
  - What keeps you from returning to God?
  - What are some ways in which you have found yourself in the "sorry cycle."
  - What does real repentance look like?
4. Now add Luke 15:20. How does this picture of God encourage you to come home today?
5. Look at Isaiah 58:9 and 1 John 5:14-15. How do these verses help you to call out to God?