

## **DAD, CAN I COME HOME?**

There are too many men who call themselves fathers because they impregnated a woman but have abandoned the hard part of being a father. The hard part is what we call responsibility. In Luke 15 we read about a father who did not abandon his responsibility. He did not abandon his family, but one of his sons chose to leave the family. It is about losing a son, and also about having that son come home. It is the father that makes this story so great. Here we have the great example of what a patient, loving father is really like. You may not have had a loving family either, but this is where God and His church can come into the picture. God is the example for all earthly fathers to follow, and His church is a substitute family for you. God and this church will fill in the gaps and voids in your life that are left by your parents and family who have not met their responsibilities. The greatest thing about God's love is that it never ceases, strays or leaves, and no matter what our earthly past has been like, there is hope for every single one of us. I believe that nearly every single one of society's problems somehow is a result of the physical absence or the neglectful attitude of earthly fathers in the lives of their children. Praise the Lord we have a God that provides for these needs and never lets us down.

The son in the story wasted a lot of good days in his life, and it could be you are too. Right now you could be resting in the love and security of a Father that can give you a home and life for eternity. This young man left his home as the younger son, but he returned as a man who was dealing with reality. In baseball terms, he made a home run. The father in the text was still alive and waiting. Jesus is trying to tell us that this father represents God. This father was always looking and hoping for the day his son would come home. When his son came over the horizon down the road, He knew who it was. The father, God, ran to the son. He hugged His son. He kissed His son. He didn't lecture him, and He didn't ask him any questions. He just loved him, and forgave him.

Jesus' life on this earth was centered round seeing that God's children find their way home, and that is still His purpose. This parable, one of the world's greatest stories ever told, teaches us about the value of one single soul and about the rejoicing over each soul that is saved.

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