Taking It Home:

The prodigal's father let his son choose his own path. With the son’s choice the father gave up responsibility, but never gave up loving his son. When the son returned his father saw him, had compassion on him, and embraced him.

- If you have a loved one who is a prodigal, keep your eyes on the horizon.

- If you are a prodigal, consider your circumstances. Life is not all you had hoped it would be. Believe that your heavenly father is waiting for your return and trust that those you loved are waiting for you to come home.

- Commit to praying for the prodigals you know that they might return home. List their names here:
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Recommended Resources:


Growth Group Homework  
For the week of August 12, 2012  
Hosea 11:1-5

Quick Review: Pastor Matthew’s message dealt with a heart rending issue, one that affects us all. Prodigals live reckless lives with little regard for the wake of destruction and hurt they leave behind. Any parent, sibling or friend can find hope when prodigals have gone astray and strength to respond when they return.

My Story:
From time to time you hear reports of individuals who get scammed by crooks who offer the promise of something too good to be true...a vacation package, a business deal with a Nigerian businessman, or winnings in an overseas lottery. The prodigal son of Luke 15 seeks his father’s inheritance to pursue the dream of something better, only to find himself wallowing in the mud with pigs.

- In your opinion, why do you suspect people get taken by con men like those mentioned above?

- How does it make you feel when a loved one recklessly trusts in empty promises of a “better life”?

- What is the most difficult aspect in dealing with loved ones who have wrecked their lives and the lives of others in pursuit of the empty promises of sin?

Growing Deeper:

Luke 15:11-32 tells the story of the prodigal son. In your own words, describe the motivation for the youngest son’s request (v. 12).

- In your opinion, do you think it was wrong for the father to give his son his share of inheritance? Explain.

- What did the son do with his father’s provision (vv. 13-14)?

- What was the motivation behind the son’s return (vv. 17-18)?

- What was the father’s response (vv. 22-24)?

- In your opinion, was the father responsible for the son’s actions?

- In your opinion, was the father’s response to the son deserved by the son?

Read Psalm 103:13. How does the compassion of the prodigal’s father compare to that of your heavenly Father?

Read Galatians 6:1.

- In what manner is the spiritual person to restore the prodigal?

- What is Paul’s warning in this passage?

- What must one do to prevent becoming a prodigal himself?