

Title: Far From Home

Text: Luke 15:12-32

Target: There is a prodigal spirit in all of us that always will be tempted to look **FAR FROM HOME** only to discover that what we have with us will always be better than what is beyond us.

- I. **Discontentment comes from Distortion:** *“And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, **give me** the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.”* (Vs. 12)
- II. **A Distorted reality is created by Deception:** *“**Not many days later**, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country,”* (Vs. 13a)
- III. **Deception concludes always in Devastation:** *“...and there he **squandered** his property in **reckless** living and when he had spent everything...”* (Vs. 13b)
- IV. **Devastation can’t be camouflaged by Denial:** *“So he went and **hired himself out** to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.”* (Vs.15)
- V. **Denial must get to a place of Desperation:** *“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!’”* (Vs. 17)
- VI. **Desperation is now confronted with a Decision:** *“**I will arise** and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.’”* (Vs. 18)

Takeaway: Our hearts will always wander far from home before our feet ever will! Pay attention to the warning signs! But for someone reading this, that thinks it’s too late for you, **IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO COME BACK HOME!**

Discussion Questions: Consider each individual point. Each stage leads to the next level of a distorted view. But then we arrive at stage five...desperation. Have you ever found yourself here? Desperate for a breakthrough? Does the story of the prodigal son resonate with you at any level? Read Isaiah 53:1-6. We are all like sheep gone astray (a.k.a. the prodigal son). We have all turned to our own way. But as Isaiah reminds us, we find hope for our distortion, deception, devastation, denial, and desperation. We need only decide to follow Jesus. He will lead us out of the muck and mire of our situation. Jesus made a way for us to come back home to the Father! This is the good news of the Gospel. If you are wandering in a land far from God, today is the day you, too, can come home. If you know somebody that is like the prodigal, maybe they need to hear from you that there is hope for their situation.