

## COMING HOME: HOMECOMING

Scripture used: [Luke 15:1-3 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

On this Easter Sunday, Pastor Hurmon continued the series “Coming Home” with an insightful reflection on the significance of the Father’s House and the power of what “homecoming” means.

### KEY POINTS

1. The first scene in our scripture is Jesus sitting in the house with “notorious sinners”, including the much-despised tax collectors who extracted money from their own folks. They are in the house sitting with Jesus, being welcomed by Him, and talking to Him. Jesus is not condoning their behavior but affirming the value of each life. Some people attack Jesus; some are drawn to Him; many don’t understand Him. The series of 3 parables in Luke 15 express the unique heart of God for those who are “lost,” in some way separated from relationship with Him. As we will see, God’s heart of grace is extravagant. At our San Jose campus, a regular worshiper from downtown San Jose, Guy, brings a lottery ticket and gives it to the church every Sunday. God uses Guy to teach a lesson on homecoming.
2. There is a single thread in our three other stories today. They all center on the announcement of the good news, on recovering what was lost and forsaken. In the same way, today is our homecoming as we gather around Jesus at the center of the house. First story: the shepherd has one hundred sheep, one is lost, the shepherd is distraught, finds the sheep, rejoices. It’s the eternal metaphor for getting lost in the course of life. [Luke 15:8-9](#): the woman finds her lost coin. The coin was lost in the house, not outside. It’s a metaphor for erring while still being in the church and part of the community. One is not totally disconnected, but the heart has strayed nevertheless. [The Prodigal Son](#) parable should be called the Father’s House parable. The focus is not on the son’s rebellion. It is on the father’s heart to welcome both of his sons to return to His house not made of bricks and stones, but His house of grace. The elder brother doesn’t understand this grace; he reacts with anger, jealousy, and resentment. But, grace is unearned favor. The father’s message to the older son is: “The grace that’s blessing your brother’s return is the same that’s been gracing your place in my house all these years.” God is trying to get everyone to share His heart of grace.
3. There is justice and punishment - God’s grace is not cheap, and the price of God’s grace was paid by Jesus. We are healed by His grace. When Jesus died on Friday, the last word had not yet been spoken. On Sunday, He is risen. The words of the parable of the Prodigal Son apply well to Jesus himself. The Father declares: This son of mine was dead, but now He is alive. He was lost. Now He is found. Grace is transformational in the most profound and radical way.
4. There are people who don’t know they have grace and miss out on the intimate relationship God intends. And then people who need grace but reject it. And finally people, like the prodigal son, who know they need grace and respond to God’s invitation to come home. The resurrected Jesus is sitting in the Father’s house. He offers unending hope. He makes it possible to experience grace and be an instrument of grace. The good news is that we are saved by grace. This is the ultimate homecoming.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - In what ways is grace (unearned favor) present in your life right now? Consider your relationships, life situation, resources, etc. Another way to think about grace is to consider what things we should be more grateful for, that we tend to take for granted, but that we would absolutely be devastated if they were missing from our lives. Take some time to reflect and share with your group members what comes to mind.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider the parables from [Luke 15](#). Which one most resonates with you? What resonates with your situation? Or you like a sheep being pursued by the love of God? Like a coin lost “in the house”, but reconnecting with the Father’s heart? Like the elder brother, needing to more deeply align with God’s heart of grace? Or like the younger brother, coming to your senses and recognizing the extravagant grace of God?
- 3) **DO** - Consider that Jesus, the one teaching the parable, is the faithful brother (see [Romans 8:29](#)). Unlike the elder brother in the parable, Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost, and makes it possible for all to be gathered into God’s family, restored to God’s house. Hallelujah! Happy Easter and Resurrection Sunday. Join NBCC again next Sunday as we continue our Coming Home series!