THE TIME TO RETURN

September 27, 2020
THE TIME TO RETURN:

(Luke 15:11 NIV) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. (12) The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. (13) "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. (14) After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. (15) So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. (16) He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. (17) "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• (18) I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. (19) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' (20) So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (21) "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' (22) "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. (23) Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. (24) For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• The Problem Of The Prodigal’s Rebellion
  • Mistakes In Judgment
  • Mistakes In Lifestyle
  • Led By Passions
THE TIME TO RETURN:

*Truth In The Trough*

- Inventory Time
- Truth Time
- A Light Bulb Moment
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• (17) ... **he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

• Reality Brought Him To His Senses
THE TIME TO RETURN:

- **GOOD NEWS:** Our Father Gives Us A Way To Correct Our Foolish Decisions

- The Best Way To Correct A Foolish Decision -- Is *With A Wise Decision*
THE TIME TO RETURN:

- Attitudes & Actions That Lead To The Pig Pen:
- Thinking That His Provisions Could Be His Protection
- (Eccl 2:10 NIV) I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.(11) Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• Attitudes & Actions That Lead To The Pig Pen:
• Thinking Of His Flesh Instead Of His Future

• The Illusion Of Sin And Our Ability To Handle It -- Is Very Strong (we think we can handle it, but we can’t)
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• (Gal 6:7 NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

• (Mat 6:19 NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.(20) But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• The Solution: Return To The Father

• It’s Time to Face Facts Instead of Faking Happiness

• The Son Went Back To His Father
  • He Asked For Forgiveness
  • It Changed His Life
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• Both Confession And Repentance Are Necessary To Return To The Lord

• **Confession** Recognizes The Offense or Sin

• **Repentance** Does Something About It – It Changes

• ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• You Can Be Sorry For Sin Because Of It’s Ramifications – That Is Not Enough -- There Must Be Change

• 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV84) — 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

• God desires that all people should repent

• Ezekiel 18:23 (NIV84) — 23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?
THE TIME TO RETURN:

• The Crossroads Of A Nation Away From God
• Jeremiah 18:7–8 (NIV84) — 7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.
THE TIME TO RETURN:

**Changes That Must Be Implemented:**

- Turn Away From Immorality And Wickedness
- False Gods And Idols Must Be Put Away
- Be Done with Sin & Junk
- Commit To Serve The Lord (And Serve Him Only)
The Time To Return:

*The Father’s Response:*  
- I Am So Glad That You Are Back  
- I Don’t Want You To Ever Leave

(22) 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him.

(23) ... Let's have a feast and celebrate. (24) For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.
THE TIME TO RETURN:

- The Word For All Prodigals: *Come Home*

- If You Move Towards God – *He Will Run To You*

- Come Out Of The Pig Pen -- *Come Home To The Father*