

Wednesday, August 19, 2026
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Essential Truth: *Repentance begins when we stop hiding and turn back toward the Father.*

Scripture: Luke 15:17-20a

¹⁷ “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! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father.

Observations:

- The son came to a clear place of self-awareness. In the past his vision was clouded by selfishness, entitlement, greed and pride but his time in self-inflicted destitution and hunger brought him to his senses.
- He began to remember what life was like back at his home with his family and father and contrasted it with his current situation. Even his father's servants had plenty to eat in contrast with the starvation he was now facing.
- The son changed his course. He realized how deluded his thinking had been and he was ashamed of his actions which had brought him to his current situation. He admitted his sin before his father and before God. The son had come to a place of true repentance.
- Completely broken, the son no longer felt worthy to be called the father's son. He would be happy just to be one of the hired servants and alleviate his destitution.
- Reversing course, the son returned to his father

Application: Self-evaluation is not something that we as human beings are naturally very good at. Others can see things in us very clearly that we are completely unable to see in ourselves. Pride leads to rationalization which seems to lead to delusion. What does it take for us to see ourselves clearly? What does it take for clarity to overcome the underlying pride and bring us to a place of repentance? It may come through intense suffering like that experienced by the the son in the parable or it may come from God speaking to us through his Word. No matter how it comes, it will require submitting to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Prayer: *Father, search me and know my heart. Convict me of sin that lurks there in the deep recesses. By the power of your Spirit, overcome my pride and enable me to see my sin for what it is. Give me the humility and courage to honestly repent before you. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

