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MESSAGE NOTES - FEBRUARY 1st, 2026

The Prodigal (pt. 1)

The story of the Prodigal is all humanity returning to God through Jesus.

Luke 15:11-24 NLT “A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. 13 “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.’” 20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

Distant land/country - Wasted - Rock bottom

When have you hit rock bottom?

To be redeemed means you are coming back from something.

Luke 15:24 “This son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.”

How has your story been like the son's?

We have all walked away still wanting our inheritance.

To whom do I belong: God or the world?

Psalm 139:7-8 “I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!”

Ezekiel 34:11 “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.”

Ephesians 3:18 “May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.”

“I am touching here the mystery that Jesus himself became the prodigal son for our sake. He left the house of the heavenly Father, came to a foreign country, gave away all that he had, and returned through his cross to his Father's home... so that I could become like him and return with him to his Father's home.” **Henri Nouwen, The Return of the Prodigal**, pg. 55, 56