

Inside Message

Someone once said, “Home is where you treat your friends like family and your family like friends”. That kind of atmosphere of “being at home and being happy to be home” is a special feeling. This is much like what we have here at Langston. The joy and the closeness of home seems to meet me in every hallway at Langston. It is such a good feeling that I simply don’t want anyone to miss it. It is what our Lord teaches us in the Bible, ***“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you”.*** (Ephesians 4:32) A Christ-like kindness and forgiveness is an atmosphere that can make any house a home.

This is my desire in this sermon series. I want to invite all of those who have fallen out of church to come home to Langston. I want to invite them to renew their relationship with the Lord and with our church. I also want to invite those who do not have a church home to make Langston their home. I also have a challenge for you to contact everyone you know and invite them to come home. Satan has a way of making a person feel unwanted, unneeded and simply out of place when in fact that is just not true. I’m asking you to join me and roll out a welcome mat to all those who need to come home to Langston; to make them feel welcome, appreciated and accepted. Because the bottom line is this, we all have a loved one who needs to come home to Christ and when they get here we would love it if someone would make them feel at home. So let’s all do what Christ would do and welcome home all of His children.

Come Home, We Want You Here

Sermon #1

Luke 14:16-24 (V.16) *Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: (V.17) And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. (V.18) And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. (V.19) And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. (V.20) And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. (V.21) So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. (V.22) And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. (V.23) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. (V.24) For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.*

“This message is what I consider to be our Lord’s vision. It is His passionate pursuit of the lost. In this passage He leaves no doubt concerning the thrust of His life and ministry. This is His passionate plea for those who follow Him, to cry to the world His gracious invitation.”
Hampton Drum

I. An invitation to come home was delivered to the dearest. (V.16-17)

A. The invitation went out as a special invitation to his guest.

Luke 14:16 *Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:*

B. The invitation went out as a specific invitation to his guest.

Luke 14:17 *And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.*

2 Corinthians 5:20 *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

II. An invitation to come home was dismissed by the delegates. (V.18-20)

A. Their response reveals the priority of the heart.

Luke 14:18 *And they all with one consent began to make excuse.*

B. Their response reveals the purpose of their heart.

Luke 14:18-20 . . . *The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. (V.19) And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. (V.20) And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.*

Luke 14:24 *For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.*

III. An invitation to come home was detoured to the deprived. (V.21-24)

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” C.S. Lewis

A. It was diverted to those who were debilitated.

Luke 14:21 *So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.*

The maimed: The biblical days were days of cruel, barbaric men, who left in their wake streets littered with their victims.

The halt: The word halt describes those in that day who were left debilitated by some sickness or deformity.

The blind: These were those who, for some tragic reason, were left to spend their days in darkness.

B. It was diverted to those who were disenfranchised.

Luke 14:21 . . . *Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor,*

Luke 14:22-23 *And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. (V.23) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

“In these verses we read the indiscriminate invitation to all who will come. No one is left out, and everyone is invited. The Savior with great emotion gives us our marching orders: “Go out into the highways and the hedges, and compel them to come in.” His concern is that His house will be filled, and that anyone who desires to come, will come.”

Come Home to Acceptance and Forgiveness

Sermon #2

Genesis 31:3 *And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.*

“Home is where you can always return, no matter how long you’ve been gone.”

Anonymous

I. The anguish that confronts us on the way home.

A. Sometimes there is the anguish of facing our past.

Genesis 27:41 *And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.* (It had now been 20 years since Jacob fled from his Esau.)

Genesis 27:43 *Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; (V.44) And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;*

B. Sometimes there is the anguish of facing people.

Genesis 32:6-7 *And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. (V.7) Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;*

II. The arrangements that captivate us on the way home.

A. There is the attitude we surrender on our way home.

Genesis 32:9-11 *And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: (V.10) I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. (V.11) Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.*

“Men throw broken things away, but it seems God never uses anything until He first breaks it.”

Adrian Rogers

B. There are the actions we strategize on the way home.

Genesis 32:13-15 *And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother; (V.14) Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, (V.15) Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals.*

III. The acceptance that comforts us when we come home.

“Jacob’s strength was in his limp, for it was a constant reminder that God had conquered him and he could trust the Lord to see him through.”

Warren Wiersbe

A. The unexpected reception we receive when we get home.

A Home coming of tears:

Genesis 33:3-4 *And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. (V.4) And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.*

What Jacob Discovers When God Calls You Home

- Jacob received great mercy on his way home.

Genesis 32:10 *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.*

- Jacob realized how God had blessed him while he was away.

Genesis 33:5 *And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.*

- Jacob realized how God had removed the anger from his brother’s heart.

Genesis 33:4 *And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.*

Luke 15:20 *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

B. The unexpected release we receive when we get home.

Genesis 33:8-9 *And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met?
And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord. (V.9) And Esau said, I
have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.*

Come Home to Productivity

Sermon #3

Acts 13:13 *Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.*

“When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”
Harriet Beecher Stowe

I. The desertion from his productiveness in the work of Christ. (V.13)

A. The fear that causes us to forsake the ministry.

Acts 13:13 *Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia:*

Some have supposed that he was afraid of the dangerous mountains of Pamphylia, a region infested with bands of robbers.

2 Corinthians 11:26 *In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;*

B. The frustration that causes us to forsake the ministry.

Acts 13:13 . . . *John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.*

Why did he forsake the missionaries?

- Perhaps he was disillusioned with the change in leadership. After all, Barnabas, the original leader, was John Mark’s cousin.
- The new emphasis on Gentiles may have been too much of an adjustment.
- Possibly he was afraid of the dangerous road over the Taurus Mountain.
- He might have been afraid of sickness. There is some evidence that Paul became quite ill in Perga.
- Some think Mark was homesick. *John Walvoord*

II. The desire to be productive again in the work of Christ. (15:37-39)

Acts 15:36-40 *And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. (V.37) And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. (V.38) But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. (V.39) And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; (V.40) And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.*

A. Paul was cautious about John Mark because he felt he was unpredictable.

Acts 15:38 *But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.*

The tough battle hardened soldier of Christ had no use for deserters.

James 1:6 *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

B. Barnabas was persistent about John Mark because he felt he could be useful.

Acts 15:39 *And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*

III. The determination to be productive again in the work of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:10 *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. (V.11) Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.*

What do you think changed Paul's mind about John Mark?

- The success of John Mark and Barnabas in their missionary journey probably impressed Paul and renewed his confidence in John Mark.
- The fact that Paul was about to die and he knew that he needed to resolve this issues with John Mark could have caused a change.
- The incident of Demas and the realization that he needed to be an encouragement to John Mark may have influenced his decision.

A. John Mark had worked as a committed servant of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:11 *. . . Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.*

“Despite John Mark’s shaky start he learned from his mistake and became so valuable to the body of Christ that even Paul changed his mind.” *David Jeremiah*

B. John Mark won the confidence of the servants of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:11 . . . *for he is profitable to me for the ministry.*

Colossians 4:10 *Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)*

Come Home, We're Still Looking for You

Sermon #4

Luke 15:20 *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

“Charles Dickens called the prodigal son story the finest story ever written. Another describe it as “the most winsome picture of God ever drawn on earth”. Yet another said it is “the crown and pearl of all parables.”

David Jeremiah

I. The love of the Father was looking in spite of the insurrection.

“Humanism was not invented by man, but by a snake who suggested that the quest for autonomy might be a good idea.”

R. C. Sproul

A. He was looking to welcome him in spite of the insult.

Luke 15:11-12 *And he said, A certain man had two sons: (V.12) And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.*

B. He was looking to welcome him in spite of the imposition.

Luke 15:12 . . . *And he divided unto them his living.*

II. The love of the Father was looking in spite of the indulgence.

A. He was looking to welcome him in spite of the embarrassing actions.

Luke 15:30 *But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots,*

B. He was looking to welcome him in spite of his embarrassing appearance.

Luke 15:15-17 *And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. (V.16) And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. (V.17) And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

III. The love of the Father was looking in spite of the inconvenience.

“There is no evil that the father’s love cannot pardon and cover. There is not sin that is a match for His grace.”
Tim Killer

A. He was looking for him instead of doing what he needed or wanted to do.

Luke 15:20 *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him,*

B. He was looking for him even though he was detestable and pathetic.

Luke 15:20 . . . *and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

The Father restored the articles of his sonship.

Luke 15:22-24 *But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: (V.23) And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: (V.24) For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

Revelations 19:11-12 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. (V.12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*