

## **SERMON NOTES:** COMING HOME TO THE TRIUNE GOD (26/06/16)

### **SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 15:11-32*

*Ephesians 1:3-6, 13-14 (The Message)*

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

### **KEY POINTS**

- + From the parable of the prodigal son: the Father's love is consistent and he shows love, and goes out to, both sons.
- + Culture's shift toward reason and logic has trumped faith: we are unfamiliar with leaning into the beauty of the life-giving Good News, and this has added to our sense of homelessness.
- + In looking to the Trinity we discover how God calls us home to him:
  - + the Father desires us to come home to his embrace; he lavishes love upon us and receives us
  - + the Son brings us to the Father; he invites us to participate in and share his inheritance when we have squandered our own

- + the Spirit brings revelation; he makes us aware of our homelessness, opens our ears to the Father's call, and reveals the Son to us

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- + Read and reflect on the Message translation of the Ephesians passage (Lectio Divina works well). Give space for people to share what sticks out to them, where they find themselves, or which words linger.
- + Do you identify more with the younger brother or older brother in the parable of the prodigal son? Do you also identify with how the Father responds to his sons?
- + Consider a way in which God is calling you home. How do you see the Trinity at work in this - Father, Son and Spirit - in their unique 'roles'?
- + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
- + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
- + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
- + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
- + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?