

*Luke 15:11-12*

October 5, 2014

**The AHA Experience**

The beginning of a story says a lot about the end of the story.

*There was a young man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.* **Luke 15:11**

**Reasons we leave home:**

1. “I want it now” – instant gratification
2. “I deserve it” - entitlement
3. “I can do better on my own” - bitterness

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Galatians 5:19-21**
* **Tuesday 1 Corinthians 10:13**
* **Wednesday Galatians 5:16-18**
* **Thursday 1 Thessalonians 4:4**
* **Friday 1 john 2:15**
* **Saturday Colossians 3:5**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What is the beginning of your story like? When did you first depart from what was right?

When have you felt the “I want it now”?

When have you said to yourself, “I deserve it”?

When have you said, “I can do better on my own?”

How do each of these attitude take us away from a relationship with God?

*Father, I am the younger son who leaves home. There have been days when I have said, I want it now, I deserve it, and I can do better on my own. Show me the places where I have this attitude in my life and help me change it. Be with me on this AHA journey and awaken my soul to the things of you. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

*Luke 15:11-16*

October 12, 2014

**The Distant Country**

1. The distant country is attractive and desirable.

*Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country…* **Luke 15:13**

1. The distant country will leave you broke

*…and there squandered his wealth on wild living. After he had spent everything there was a severe famine in the whole country, and he began to be in need.* **Luke 15:13-14**

1. The distant country will leave you alone.

*He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything****.* Luke 15:16**

1. Every story has a beginning, but no other story ends like God’s does.

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Luke 15:11-16**
* **Tuesday Jeremiah 2:1-4**
* **Wednesday Jeremiah 2:5-8**
* **Thursday Hebrews 11:24-28**
* **Friday James 3:13-18**
* **Saturday James 4:1-6**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What does the distant country look like in your life? Where do you find yourself moving away from God?

How have you felt broke from living away from God?

How have you felt alone when you are disconnected from God?

How do you want your current story (life situation) to end?

How can seeking God redeem a difficult story?

*Father, the distant country entices me more than I would like to admit; So much that I often have difficulty saying no to its tempting words. I know I will be broke and alone, but I still go. Forgive me God and show me the beauty in the story that you have for me. I will follow you as you lead me and leave the distant country behind.*

*Luke 15:17-19*

October 19, 2014

**A Sudden Awakening**

1. The longer you’ve been asleep the more difficult waking up can be.

*When he came to his senses…* **Luke 15:17**

1. You realize where you were.

*How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare…* **Luke 15:17**

1. You realize where you are.

1. You realize where you could be.

*I will set off and go back to my father…* **Luke 15:19**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Revelation 3:1-3**
* **Tuesday Psalm 84:1-10**
* **Wednesday Ephesians 5:14-20**
* **Thursday Romans 13:11-14**
* **Friday Proverbs 14:12**
* **Saturday Proverbs 29:1**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

Everybody is asleep in some way to their spiritual brokenness. Where are you sleeping?

Do you have anyone who could help show you where you are asleep? What holds you back from asking them for help?

What does life look like for you when you are in God’s will?

Are you currently doing everything you can to honor God with your life? What needs to change?

Where could you be if you have a sudden awaking?

*Lord, the psalmist says, “Better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere.” Show me the truth of this statement God. I want to have a deep passion for honoring you with my life and spending my time in your presence. Awaken me to your never-ending grace. In Jesus’ Name, Amen*

*Luke 15:17-19*

October 26, 2014

**Brutal Honesty**

1. Honest about circumstances.

*“How many of my father’s hands have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!* **Luke 15:17**

1. Honest about what brought you here.

*I will set off and go back to me father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.* **Luke 15:18**

1. Honest about the consequences.

*I am no longer worthy to be called your hired servants.*

**Luke 15:19**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Romans 2:5-10**
* **Tuesday Jude 5-7**
* **Wednesday Matthew 3:2-3**
* **Thursday Leviticus 26:40-45**
* **Friday Psalm 51**
* **Saturday John 6:43-51**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

When was the last time you were completely honest with yourself about your life?

Who do you have in your life that gives you brutal honesty?

Are willing to receive brutal honesty even though it can sometimes be painful?

What are some of your actions that brought you to a current place of struggle?

What are some consequences your have experienced because of your poor decisions?

*Lord it is hard for me to be honest with myself because I exist in a place of pride. Its hard for me to admit I am wrong and that I have sinned. I see that this honesty helps me to grow and become more reliant upon you. I will trust in you and those you have put in my life to help guide me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

*Luke 15:17-20a*

November 2, 2014

**Immediate Action**

1. Honesty has to be followed by action

*So he got up…* **Luke 15:20**

1. Acknowledge where you are.
2. Look at where you are going.

*and went to his father.* **Luke 15:20**

1. Know who is waiting for you.

*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 and threw his arms around him and kissed him.* **Luke 15:20**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Genesis 45:14-15**
* **Tuesday Genesis 46:28-34**
* **Wednesday Ephesians 2:4-5**
* **Thursday Zephaniah 3:17**
* **Friday 1 Peter 5:6-7**
* **Saturday Psalm 86:15**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What action do you need to take in response to brutal honesty?

Have you honestly looked at your life to find the place where you are furthest from God? Where is it?

Understanding where you are, where do you want to be?

What is it going to take for you to get to that place? Are you willing to take the steps?

Do you have a keen understanding of how deeply God the Father loves you? What will it take to know it more?

*Lord if I am honest with myself I know I have someplace I need to go. May I see you and the life you have for me as far better than anything I am stuck in now. You have a future for me if I am only willing to take action. So today I act! I am moving forward starting now, and I greatly anticipate your loving embrace as I come home to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

*Luke 15:20-30*

November 9, 2014

**The Final AHA**

1. Awakening? Honesty? Action?

*So he got up…* **Luke 15:20**

1. Time to celebrate!

*For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.* **Luke 15:24**

1. Experience AHA for yourself.

*and went to his father.* **Luke 15:20**

1. Remember your AHA moment.

*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 and threw his arms around him and kissed him.* **Luke 15:20**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Luke 15:1-7**
* **Tuesday Luke 15:8-10**
* **Wednesday Luke 15:11-32**
* **Thursday Luke 17:20-37**
* **Friday Matthew 5:3-10**
* **Saturday Matthew 7:1-6**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What does AHA look like in your life? Have you had your AHA moment?

Which part of AHA is easiest/hardest? Awakening. Honesty. Or Action?

Have you ever celebrated your AHA moment the AHA of someone else? What was that like?

What is holding you back from experiencing AHA?

Do you understand God as a loving Father who welcomes you home?

*Lord we know that you celebrate when even one person finds you and enters into your joy. Thank you for the party you throw for me and others. Your overwhelming love and grace is more than I could ask for or deserve. I worship you, our great and awesome Dad. And I will honor you with all my heart as I share my AHA with others. In the name of your precious Son, Amen.*