



Wednesday March 25, 2020
Luke 15:11-24

Tony Acompañado
Director of Faith Formation

Lost and Found

Have you ever felt lost? Lost on what to think, what to feel, or what to do? I wonder if the uncertainty of what's taking place in our world right now might be causing you to feel lost. Or maybe it's the anxiety over your health following a recent diagnosis, or because the future of your job or financial stability hangs in the balance, or because all your routines have been shaken up, or because your mental health is teetering on the edge, or because a relationship that once made you feel complete, now seems to be falling apart.

Sunday morning worship services, Wednesday evening soup suppers and worship, small groups, choir rehearsals, concerts, and ministry activities across the board have all been postponed or canceled. Schools at every level have closed their doors, proms and graduation ceremonies have been cancelled, dine-in restaurants and playgrounds are off-limits, and businesses of all sizes and types have either sent their employees to work at a distance or more difficultly had to let some of them go. And now, following the most recent "Safer at Home" order prohibiting non-essential travel, we already know that we won't physically be present in this place together during Holy Week – and even more unbelievably – on Easter. Let's face it – this season of life is sure to be one for the record books, and as our awareness of it continues to sink in, it's easy to see how it can contribute to our feelings of being lost.

Regardless of the reason, feeling lost can be confusing, uncomfortable, and even down-right heart-breaking. Whether it's connected to death, defeat, direction, or possessions, it has the potential to bring us face-to-face with emotions ranging from frustration and anger to fear and the very depths of grief. And in today's parable, Jesus shines light on a subtle truth: sometimes we're lost, and we don't even know it.

So, whether we experience feeling lost and wandering the wilderness as a result of circumstances thrust upon us or led by the pursuit of our own selfishness or self-righteousness – God – our gracious and loving Father, longs for all of us to come home – to come to Him. Which is precisely the point of today's parable. Jesus is introducing us to the relational logic of the kingdom of God that runs contrary to and way beyond the logic of the world. Jesus teaches that no country is too far, no heart is too hard, and no child of God is too lost to be found. Jesus shows us that God will always pursue us with love, wrap us in grace, and seek to restore us with joy. Jesus intends for us to learn something about how our weakness, or worthiness, or anything otherwise, relates to God's generosity and radical welcome. And with this in mind, we can hear a word of restoration.

Sometimes the most important truths are the simplest ones. And maybe the very word we need most right now is the truth we've heard thousands of times...the life-changing core of the good news – that when we feel lost and far from God – God is never far from us. Through this parable, Jesus reminds us, "whoever you are, my grace is sufficient. Wherever you've been, my truth will search you out. And whatever you've done, there is always a way home." Amen.