

RAISING IN ARIZONA - Part 8
"Who's Your Pater?"
Pastor Bill Bush
May 31, 2009

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

The story of the boy, Jesus, at the Temple. Luke 2:41-52

Psalm 68:5-6a (NLT)

"...father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy."

2 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)

"And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Psalm 103:13-14, Matthew 6:28-32, Luke 12:32

Radical new concept: Who's your Pater? God is!

THE BIG IDEA:
Come Home To Your Father's Love!

Luke 15:11-32 "The Ultimate Father"

What we know about our Father:

- We can always humbly come home to Him.
- He wants our HEARTS not just our HABITS.
- He is not concerned with where you have been. He is concerned with where you are and where you are heading.

The question really is...

Am I ready to come home to my Father's love?

ENTRY POINT: Lost sheep. Lost Coin. Lost Son. The stories in **LUKE, Chapter 15**, tell us how important each and every one of us is to our God. Read these words and consider the lengths to which God goes to find His lost; and the joy He feels when each is returned to Him!

Think of a time when you were lost in the wilderness of life. To *what* or to *whom* did you turn? What was the outcome?

How many times have you lost or misplaced something valuable, and searched high and low until you found it? Describe your relief and joy when you found it, and consider/discuss how much more God rejoices when we are returned to Him!

When has a desire to live as you please caused you to walk – or run – away from your Father? When has a tragedy or difficult situation caused you to walk – or run – back to Him?

Wherever you are is no surprise to God! Before we are believers, God searches for us, and He continues to search for those who are lost. How do you relate your "Homecoming" experience to others? What is it that keeps you from running into your Father's loving, waiting arms?

*"In the same way,
heaven will be happier over one lost sinner
who returns to God
than over ninety-nine others who are righteous
and haven't strayed away."
Luke 15:7 (NLT)*