

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

### **Welcome Home**

Jesus was challenged one day regarding the company he was keeping. In response, he told them a parable. We know it most commonly as the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Arguably, it might be more accurately entitled the Parable of the Waiting Father.

The point Jesus wanted to make was that the attitude and behavior of this earthly father toward his “prodigal son” exemplified the attitude and behavior of his own heavenly father.

God longs for, looks for, and reaches out to those who need to come home. God offers his hand of friendship to all. God welcomes home all who have been away.

Furthermore, God provides the ultimate “welcome home” through the life, death and resurrection of His son.

The invitation, however, is just that...an invitation. Coming home is not something that can be forced. The prodigal son had to “come to his senses” and turn his face toward home. The older brother mentioned in the parable also had to make a turnaround in his attitude before he could welcome his brother home. The same applies to any of us.

God is out there longing for, looking for, and reaching out to His loved ones. He is inviting us home. The church, God’s arm in the world, needs to emulate the Father. St. Timothy, God’s arm in the world, needs to emulate the Father and be His welcoming committee to those who have been away, who have been missing.

In turn, the missing need to be open to the Father’s invitation, to turn toward home and to be received home.

In fact, all who have been enfolded into His “home” through faith in Christ Jesus need daily to come their senses, to turn toward home and to be embraced anew. In that embrace, we await His ultimate

“Welcome Home!”

Pastor Dean