



**MWay Notes Wk02\_Awaken**  
**Regret and Repentance**  
**Luke 15:17-24**

Jesus told this story for transformation, not information.

**Note the resolve of the younger brother: REGRET**

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' [Luke 15:17-19]

Two important pieces of this story...

1. He admitted his need.

- An Awakening to Regret: "I wish I could start over."
- Admitting our need is the first step toward a new life.

2. He decided to go home.

- In the story "going home," means repentance.
- Two biblical words help us understand repentance:
  - Metanoia (Greek): "Changing one's mind"
  - Teshuvah (Hebrew): "To return"
- Repentance: A change of mind resulting in a change of action.
- God leads us to repentance.  
Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? [Romans 2:4]
- Some of us are stuck in the "Sorry Cycle".

**Note the reception by the father: GRACE**

"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began. [Luke 15:20-24]

Jesus teaches us four important truths in this part of the story...

1. God longs for us to return home.
2. God's grace is reckless, lavish, and extravagant.
3. God's forgives any and every kind of sin.
4. God's love cannot be earned!

Prayer of regret: *"God, if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the possibility that with you I could start over again."*