



DATE	August 5, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Setback to a Comeback
SERIES	Stuck in anxiety? Trapped by guilt? Bound by consequences? Your future can be greater than your present. With God's help, you can undergo a metamorphosis and emerge from them free to experience the abundant life you're meant to live.

In this passage, Jesus is answering the criticism "This man receives sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2). Of course, he should seek after sinners, even as a shepherd seeks after a sheep, a woman seeks after a coin that is lost, and as a father seeks after a lost son. The Son of God naturally seeks the lost. We should continue to ask ourselves:

- a. Is it natural for us to seek the lost?
 - b. Do you have a heart of God?
1. Pastor David taught that setbacks happen...
By a lack of wisdom
When we do what we want without God
While we are bored with life
If others don't matter as much to us
Read Genesis 3:6, Romans 1:28, Luke 12:15, Matthew 20:20, Romans 12:11, Proverbs 26:12. Which kinds of setbacks are highlighted here?
 2. The younger son made some really bad decisions. He decided to try and meet his own needs. He thought if he had enough money he could live just as he wished.
Read Proverbs 3:5. How does this verse support this? How might this understanding have helped the son?
 3. Each scene illustrates a different aspect of God's work. The Son seeks the lost as the Good Shepherd, the Holy Spirit seeks the lost with searching illumination, and the Father seeks the lost with open arms upon return. Most people relate to one of these. Where are you? Do you know someone who needs help moving into God's grace?
 4. Pastor David taught us that comebacks happen:
By taking responsibility for where I am
With courage
If we realize that God is doting; not distant
When we repent
- Read these passages: Matthew 4:17, Mark 6:12, Luke 17:3. What do these passages tell us about how comebacks happen?

5. Remember the point of the prodigal son story is to show how God reacts to people who repent. Explain how you would describe God's emotion when we return to Him?
6. When the son finally came to his senses and returns home, the story says the father "runs" to his son. What are you thinking if you are the son? Can you relate to this feeling when you've sought forgiveness from God?
7. Have you allowed yourself to experience God's unconditional forgiveness?

Charles Spurgeon summarizes this chapter beautifully: "The truth here taught is just this: that mercy stretches forth her hand to misery, that grace receives men as sinners, that it deals with demerit, unworthiness and worthlessness; that those who think themselves righteous are not the objects of divine compassion, but the *unrighteous, the guilty and the undeserving, are the proper subjects for the infinite mercy of God; in a word, that salvation is not of merit but of grace.*"

Are you ready for a comeback?