

What's Next? Come Back

September 5 & 6, 2026

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Governing Command: Matthew 22:37 – “Love the Lord your God...”

Luke 15:25-32 | ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

1. We all DRIFT. (v.25-30)

- Some drift while LEAVING.
- Some drift while STAYING.

2. God still wants us HOME. (v.28)

3. Growth requires consistent ENGAGEMENT. (v.31-32)

Call to Action: Come Back.

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. What is something in your life that is easy to get out of the habit of doing, but hard to get back into?
2. Are you naturally more of a routine person, or do you tend to just take life as it comes?

Quick Review:

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. The older brother never left home, but he had still drifted from his father. What are some ways we can *drift from God without actually leaving church*?
3. Which point challenged you most: recognizing that we all drift, remembering that God still wants us home, or consistently engaging with God?

Digging Deeper:

Read **Luke 15:25-32** and **Matthew 22:34-40**.

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Matthew 22:34-40 | ³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

1. Who do you think has drifted most, the older or younger brother?
2. Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. How is that different from simply obeying rules or doing religious things?
3. The father goes out to the older brother and invites him in. What does that tell us about God’s response to people who have drifted—even *when their drift isn’t obvious to anyone else*?

Putting It Into Practice:

1. Where are you most likely to drift spiritually: **busyness, distraction, hurt, routine, disappointment, or something else**?
2. What is one rhythm you need to rebuild right now to help you **Come Back**—consistent worship, time in God’s Word, prayer, engagement with church, or something else?
3. What would it look like for you to be more than simply **present** with God this week and actually be **engaged** with Him?