

**Word Notes Sunday 19/03/17**  
**Tim Anderson – Coming Home**

**Summary** *(read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>)*

**Key Text: Luke 19:10; Luke 15**

In our natural state we are lost, without a proper home. In the three parables in Luke 15, Jesus lays out the Father's heart for His lost people. God is a restoring God. A restorer has a vision of what something can be and our heavenly Father has a vision for each one of us. Sin has messed us up but He sent a restorer – his Son Jesus - to clean us up and restore us. He believes in You! Your life can sing again and the evidence for this is the resurrection of Jesus himself. God loves us just as we are, unconditional, just because of who we are. On the other side of the coin God loves us too much to leave us the way we are. We are a long-term restoration project - it takes time to build something of quality and worth.

The parable of the lost sheep shows us how deeply God cares and how far He will go – He carries us home on his shoulders, we don't have to do anything but trust, He has done it all!

The parable of the lost coin tells us how deeply we are valued: just as much as any other. The nine coins were useless without the tenth, it's no good having £9 when you need 10!

The parable of the prodigal holds many deep clues to both our condition (we put our wants first), our treatment of God (like he was dead) and what we need to do to change:

1. We must be absolutely fed up. In those rock bottom moments transformation happens, something changes deep inside and we determine to do something. Repentance is a decision of the mind and only you can make that change, not anyone else, God hasn't changed his position, you need to. Don't blame leaders or anyone else for your woes, get up and do something.
2. We must own up. The son had to own up to the reality of his situation. God has never forgiven an excuse! Ps 51.
3. We must offer up our lives. Look at v12 – the son says "give me". In v19 it's "would you take me back?" Christianity is not for the weak, many strong people have given their lives up and it starts at a place of surrender.

**Summary:**

- This is the message to the lost from Jesus: "God knows you, loves you and calls you home."
- Each of us can come back to God, it's up to us to make the change.
- God is inviting NCC to create that home for this town.

**Application** *(this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)*

What does "home" mean to you? List some things that apply to your earthly home then compare that to a list of things relating to your heavenly home and discuss the differences and similarities thinking about their importance to your security and wellbeing.

Why does Tim say that the son in the parable of the prodigal treat his father as if he were dead? How does that relate to our treatment of Father God?

What can happen if our repentance is a response to our emotions rather than a decision of the will? *(Clue: our emotions fluctuate, a decision should not.)* Is that your experience?

How full do you think your surrender to God is right now? Do material comforts or other worldly things get in the way and how do you deal with them?

**Witness** *(this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)*

What would it take to make NCC a place where people can find "home"? what is your role?