SUMMARY: THE WHOLE STORY

(Luke 15:11-32)

1. THE WAY AWAY

- 1) Dissatisfaction / Desire The lure of a "far country" was in his thoughts long before the dust was on his feet. (James 1:14-15)
- 2) Demand (v12) "father, give me ..." (Proverbs 14:12)
- 3) Departure (v13) "and took his journey into a far country"
- 4) Dissipation (v13) "and there wasted his substance in riotous living"
- 5) Destitution (v14) "and when he had spent all ... he began to be in want"
- 6) Degradation (v15) "and he sent him into his field to feed swine"

2. THE WAY BACK HOME

- 1) Realization (v17) "and when he came to himself"
- 2) Repentance (v18) "I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him ... "
- 3) Returning (v20) "and he arose and came to his father"
- 4) Resignation (v21) "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight ... "

3. THE FATHER'S RECEPTION

- 1) Restoration (v22) "best robe ... a ring ... shoes"
- 2) Rejoicing (v23) "and let us eat and be merry"

Hymn #924 v3 "Just as I am! Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"

4. THE RECEPTION FROM THE ELDER BROTHER

- 1) Rejection (v28) "but he was angry and would not go in"
- 2) Reasoned selfishly (v29) "Lo, these many years I have been serving you;
 I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet, you never gave
 me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends"

CLOSE: it is amazing grace!

Prodigals in the "far country" may return to a gracious reception.

Brothers, hard-hearted at home, may also return to a gracious reception.