



Gifts for the Homesick

Luke 15:20-24 (NIV)

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

1. Robe of righteousness. (Luke 15:22)

- God longs to cover us.

Isaiah 61:10 (NIV)

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- The Robe reminds us that our sin is replaced with Christ's righteousness.

- The Robe says we are not just forgiven but restored.
- Life's most foundational truth and most difficult truth to embrace is that God loves us!
- Our desire for healthy human relationships is good; it's just not ultimate!
- Satan's primary task is to cloud our image of God.

2. Ring of authority.

- The ring is reminder of the Father's authority that is now ours in Christ!
- Never confuse power with authority. (Colossians 2:13-15)
- On the cross, Jesus Christ deactivated, dismantled, and disarmed Satan's rule over sin and death!

3. Sandals of freedom.

- The father's gift of shoes was a gift of freedom.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.