MARCH 6, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

JOSHUA 5:9A, 10–12

PSALM 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17–21

LUKE 15:1–3, 11–32

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel is one of those timeless stories with many characters that should be examined from different views. Which character are you today? Are you the child who does everything right and doesn't feel properly rewarded, or the child who seems to mess up and yet always gets a lot of love from your parent? Or maybe you are the friend: so compassionate and loving that you might feel used when a friend hurts you, because you always have open arms, but you accept them back into your life no matter what. Probably not, as everything always looks greener on the other side.

Learn a lesson from the psalmist today. No matter what happens in life, you need to praise God, somehow and in some way! The older brother can praise through his integrity. The prodigal son can praise through his forgiveness. All is good. Seek the Lord, and may your face not blush in shame. No matter what you think you have done in life, God welcomes you home with open arms.

"WELCOME HOME (YOU)"
BRIAN LITTRELL
www.youtube.com/
watch?v=qSqywOCc_MM

ACTION

This week take three minutes to look up the song "Welcome Home" by Brian Littrell on YouTube. Listen to the lyrics, and think about your desires in life. What do you do now that includes God, and what do you do that excludes God? Once you know what you are doing, make a choice to consciously allow God to be a more active participant in your life. While God knows your name intimately, don't take God for granted. And definitely tell your parents thank you and that you love them every day this week!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

◉ At what times in my life do you most feel God's presence and love for you? Is it through people, things, or maybe certain emotions?

◉ What kind of relationship do you have with God? Do you believe you are a beloved child of God? If you do, how does that help you be an ambassador of God's Good News? If you don't, why do you struggle with the concept?