

## Sin Causes Me To Be In Need!

*“<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.” – Luke 15:14.*

The young man had spent all his wealth on the pleasures of the world by wild living. He was now broke and in need. Hard times were upon him, in addition to which there was a severe famine in the land, and the cost of living had risen. All his friends who were around him during the good times had forsaken him. He had moved from ‘hero’ to ‘zero.’ He was now in need and alone.

As it is in the physical, so it is in the spiritual. There is also a spiritual dimension to the young man’s plight. For sin has consequences.

The first consequence which is the focus of this devotion is that sin causes me to want! Sooner or later, if I continue to live in sin, it will bring me to a place of need where all my resources, financial and otherwise will become depleted. I have experienced this. I have noticed that when sin is present in my life, problems seem to arise one after the other that put me in unnecessary expenses – car problems, health issues, unexpected family related expenses, home repairs, just to name a few.

And to compound the problem, similar to the young man’s experiences, there is now a downturn in our economy and goods and services are more expensive. As mentioned above, the young man in the story was broke, and there was a famine in the land.

Sin causes me to be in need! The devil operates as a thief who, through my sinful nature and actions, will steal my wealth. John 10:10 says *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”*

It happened to the young man in the story. It happened to me. Don’t let it happen to you.

Of course the young man left his father’s house for a distance land, which symbolized that he no longer had a relationship with his Father in heaven. This, too, is the effect of sin – our soul starves because it is in need of ‘spiritual food’ which is not available.

Matthew Henry Commentary writes:

*“A sinful state is a wanting state: when he had spent all, there was a mighty famine in the land, every thing was scarce and dear, and he began to be in want. Riotous living, in a little time, brings men to a morsel of bread; especially when bad times hasten on the consequences. This represent the misery of sinners, who have thrown away their own mercies, the favour of God, and the admonitions of conscience, for the pleasures of sense and the wealth of the world, and then are ready to perish for want of them. Sinners want necessities for their souls, they have neither food nor raiment for them, nor any provision for hereafter.”*

In spite of our sinful state, and because of the love of God, there is still hope in Jesus. Romans 5:8 says,

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Even in that place of need, there is the assurance that God loves me, and that He is my help and deliverer. Psalm 40:17 declares:

*As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!*

As a Good Shepherd who takes care of His sheep, Jesus wants to meet take care of my every need. According to Psalm 23:1:

*“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*

Even in my state of lack, I can still seek the Lord and rekindle the reverence that I once had for Him. Psalm 34:9-10 encourages us:

*Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*

Prayer should be my first option....

*Heavenly Father,*

*“O God, thank You for being my Jehovah Jireh – My Provider – during these difficult times in my life. For I know that those who seek You lack no good thing. Lord, I am lost in sin, and now I am needy. Forgive me of my trespasses as I forgive those who have wronged me. I rekindle my reverence for You, O God, and accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You for being the Lover of my soul, and for also bringing back life to my spirit man. I thank You for my daily provisions. Help me to turn my back on the pleasures of this world, and on everything and person that lead me in a life of sin and lack. Give me the grace and courage to walk in the Spirit. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”*

### Memory Verse:

***“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”—Psalm 23:1***

Notes:

See also this excellent article on [“21 things the devil wants to kill and destroy in your life”](#)

---