

Lost In Sin!

“¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷When he came to his senses, he said....” – Luke 15:14-17.

1. No Way Out!

Sin will not only bring someone to a state of lack, but it creates in one’s mind that there is no way out of this downward cycle of sin. The young man was broke and desperate, and everywhere he turned for help he found none. No one gave him anything. His friends abandoned him. He was now in a distant country. His family was far away and nowhere to be found. He no longer had a relationship with his earthly father and the heavenly Father. There seemed to be no way out of his misery.

One of the strategies that the devil uses, through sin in our lives, is to take us down a road which seems enjoyable at first. Yes, in the beginning sin is sweet and life is a whole lot of fun. The parties, alcohol, illicit drugs, fornication, adultery and so on make us forget temporarily about our problems, and give us a ‘high.’ We become addicted to the pleasures of the world – its attractions and glitzy lifestyle. However, during this journey of ‘riotous living’ and ‘rebellion,’ we stray further away from families, friends, other believers, church and finally God. We become too busy for those who really love us. We are too wrapped up enjoying life to heed the good advice from loved ones. Eventually, there is little or no communication with them as all our time and energy now belong to our newly found ‘friends’ and ‘associates.’

At the end of the ‘adventure’ we soon realize that our support from family and ‘true friends’ may be lost. Like the young man in the story, when we reach near ‘breaking point,’ and try to get help, there may be no one around to help us. The devil, through sin, isolates us and then in our lonesome and weakest state, he seeks to destroy us – mentally, emotionally and physically. We may literally be standing at ‘death’s door.’ For example, some may get a death sentence through health-related issues and others may become so depressed that suicide seems like a real option. Yet others, in defeat, may resign to a life of sin as their souls face eternal damnation. The devil is a liar! There is always hope in Jesus, and with God all things are possible!

Is This Really Me?

The young man was prepared to eat the pigs' food! He was once a son who lived in his father's house, and who ate the finest food. Who did this young man really become? Was that really him?

Such poverty and hopelessness could make people do things they otherwise would never think of doing! It is as though he had lost his mind! Just to make a point. When we are experiencing problems associated with our own sinful doing, there always seem to be other problems that add to our own. Not only did the young man waste all his money on the wild life and was now broke. Added to that, there was a SEVERE famine in the land that compounded his problem. It is not **coincidence** that just at the moment he became broke there arose a bitter famine! Note what is said in Luke 15:14 (KJV):

“And **when** he had spent all, **there arose** a mighty famine in that land; and **he began to be in want!**”

It is as though sin in our lives conspire with other problems to really drive us to a place of desperation so that we can do things we never thought we would have done.... in order to survive the hard times!

During a split-second moment of 'sanity' and 'clarity,' one needs to ask the questions, “Is this really me? What the hell am I really doing?”

2. Have You Lost Your Mind?

Such destitution – a consequence of sin- could drive even the most talented, intelligent and decent human being to 'breaking point.' The battle is for the mind! The devil, through sin, seeks to steal our sanity and to destroy us mentally and emotionally. The young man was prepared to eat the pig's food. Such food is not fit for humans, and only a 'mad man' would want to do that! The Bible did say in Luke 15:17 (NIV):

“**When he came to his senses**, he said.... ”

The King James Version puts it this way:

“**When he came to himself**, he said.... ”

It simply means that prior to that point at which he came to his senses, he was not himself. He was acting out of character and sin had caused him to lose his mind and act like someone else!

Matthew Henry adds:

“A sinful state is a lost state: This my son was lost – lost to every thing that was good, lost to his father’s house, they had no joy of him...A sinful state is a state of madness and frenzy. This is intimated in that expression, ver. 17, when he came to himself. Surely he was beside himself when he left his father’s house. Madness is in the hearts of sinners, Ecclesiastes 9:3.”

In spite of where sin may have brought us, Jesus can still meet us there at our place of hopelessness, need, stress and worry.

Heavenly Father,

“Thank You for the Your Son Jesus, who Comforts me during my time of distress. Sin has brought me to a dark place where there seems to be no way out. I feel as though I am losing my mind and I don’t know myself anymore. O Lord, I turn to You, and find hope in Your Son, Jesus. I declare that the devil will not have my mind, for my heart is fixed only on You, O God. Today my mind is no longer set on worldly pleasures but on the Spirit. I receive a divine touch of healing from the crown of my head to the soul of my feet as I invite Your Holy Spirit into my life. I believe that even now, You have a good, acceptable and perfect plan for my life. I thank You for Your everlasting love and mercy towards me. Give me the courage and strength, in Jesus Christ, to turn my life around. May Your peace and joy fill my mind and heart. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”

Memory Verses:

“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace..” - Romans 8:6

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”- Romans 12:2.