

## The Awakening!

*“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!’– Luke 15:17.*

### 1. Opened Eyes

The devil had stolen his wealth and killed his self-worth through wilful sin, and satan was poised to destroy him by starvation. But God allowed his spiritual eyes to be opened so that he could really see the extent of his fall, and realize that he was at ‘death’s door.’ There is enough scripture to support this:

*“Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.” - Luke 24:31*

*“...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins ...” - Acts 26:18*

*“...but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”- 2 Corinthians 3:16*

The young man had come to his senses. It is as though the veil of sin had been removed from over his eyes. He recognized that his sinful folly had brought him to ruins and he remembered his father.

### 2. Divine Affliction?

The spiritual significance is noteworthy. First, although the young man was at his wit’s end, it is not God’s intention that any of us should perish. The devil thought that this soul belonged to him. However, God used his afflictions to cause him to do some self-reflection, and to recognize that he had been blinded by his sin. He soon realized that his sinful conduct had brought him to near destruction, and that he needed to change his lifestyle. His ultimatum was clear: Pray or perish!

The scripture is clear that God can use what the devil intended for evil in our lives, and turn it around for our good. I dare say that God will use those trials and wretched circumstances in your life into testimonies of His goodness that will bless the hearts of so many and even turn their hearts towards Him. To God be the glory! Genesis 50:20 declares:

*“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*

Although the devil seeks to devour us, and he uses his evil schemes to bring us to a place of brokenness, God has the power to turn around the devil's evil assignment over our lives for His good. Romans 8:28-39 reassures us:

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

### 3. God Is My Only Escape!

The young man saw that his life was in turmoil, and that God was his only way out of his miserable state. This was the turning point in the young man's life, and for any sinner's conversion. The sinner must recognize the extent of his sin, and realize that God, through His Son Jesus, is his only way out. Jesus is the only One who stands between the sinner and eternal damnation. But the choice to turn to Christ must be a sober and willing one. Thank God that the young man remembered his father and Almighty God. The analogy of remembering the abundance that exists in his earthly father's home is seen. This is symbolic of the abundant blessings that awaits the repentant sinner who humbles himself and cries out in desperation to His Father:

*"...the tax collector stood at a distance, unwilling even to lift up his eyes to heaven. Instead, he beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' ... For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."- Luke 18:13-14.*

Just like the tax collector, may we humble ourselves before God, and cry out to Him to save us.

#### Memory Verse:

*'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' - Luke 18:14.*

*Heavenly Father,*

*"Have mercy on me, a sinner! I thank You for saving me from the wicked plans of the devil. What was meant for my harm, You, O God, has turned it around for good to accomplish Your divine will for my life! In Jesus' mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."*