



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: When a person has been unfaithful to God, how can he make his way back and find happiness once again?

Answer: The best illustration that comes to mind is found in Lk. 15:17-32. This is the account of the "prodigal son." When looking at his departure and return to his father, which is typical of God and our relationship with Him when we depart the body of Christ, the church, we note several common necessary realizations.

This young man made a great discovery - himself! The Bible said, "*And when he came to himself,*" which is a discovery that many never make before dying! He developed animalistic traits. His home could not satisfy his animalistic desires and physical delights demanded.

When he realized the condition, he made good resolutions. He made the necessary surrender, including pride. He said, "*I will arise and go to my father.*" His shame facilitated his surrender. He said, "*I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*" He demonstrated true humility which is a necessary condition of exaltation. One must humble himself before God will exalt him (Matt. 23:12). Self-renunciation was expressed when he said, "*Make me as one of thy hired servants.*" There was no self-justification neither attempt to negotiate. His shame brought about his repentance as it will ours today (2 Cor. 7:10). Being sorry is not repentance, but sorrow for sin is what leads one to repentance.

He put his resolutions into practice. Effort is required which others cannot expend for us. We must not hesitate to do anything the Lord requires of us to do right (Matt. 5:2-12; I John, 1:7-9; Jas. 4:7-8; 5:16).

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