

DEALING WITH DEVASTATION

Forgiveness

4 Lessons We Learn About The World's Way

1. The world's way puts distance between us and God

Luke 15:13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living." (NIV)

2. The world's way always equals loss

Luke 15:13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living." (NIV)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (NIV)

3. The world's way never satisfies

Luke 15:14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. (NIV)

4. The world's way takes you places you never dreamed you'd be

Luke 15:15-16 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. (NIV)

3 Keys To Experiencing The Opportunity Of A Lifetime

1. Realize there must be more than this

Luke 15:17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!'" (NIV)

2. Realize forgiveness is for you

Luke 15:18-19 "'I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'" (NIV)

Luke 15:20-24 "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I

have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.’²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.” (NIV)

Luke 15:22-24 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.’²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.” (NIV)

3. Realize you can go home

Luke 15:18-20 “‘I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.’¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” (NIV)

CG Questions

1. Why does sin put distance between us and God?
2. How does sin bring death to people’s lives? Give an example.
3. Why does sin take people places they never dreamed they’d be? Give an example.
4. What are the steps for a person to go back home to their Heavenly Father?