



Finding God through Recovery

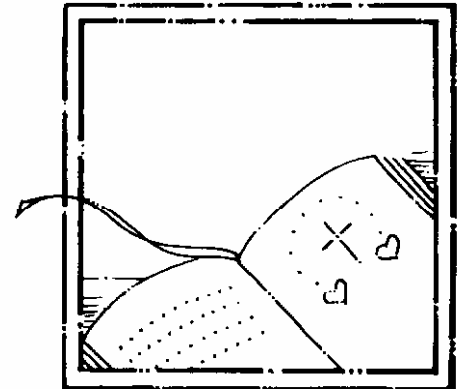
Luke 15:11-32



Men have the tendency to drift from a set point at specific times in their life.

Can you share a time when you drifted from your course? _____

The Bible is full of examples of men who drifted from their moorings and was cast out to the open sea. Many ended up with battered sails and wounded ships... some even saw ships sink into the darkened sea. But, God's Word is also full of stories of men who saw salvation and recovery. They received their lives again and recovered to a state of mind that gave them the presence of mind to think clearly.



♥ ***Recovery in the Bible is as much a theme as sin itself. God has used the recovery process over and over again to bring men to His side.***

The Problem:

Men who live out their own lives by their own ideals end up in rebellion with God. This is not necessarily by design, but by simple neglect of their relationship with God. When men move away from their Father, whatever the reason, their relationship begins to erode. God becomes like a famous person you once knew and followed for a while.

How many years was it after you met Christ did you actually start doing business with God?

Today we will explore the recovery. We will see how a man suffered because of rebellion but was brought back by way of God's recovery to repentance and restoration.

The Recovery of the Prodigal

The Rebellion

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

1. Impatience:

2. Desire to be in Control

3. Financial Irresponsibility

4. Moral Lapse

The four smoking guns of rebellion lead us to the next stage to recovery.

The Reversal

But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

Isn't it interesting that the severe famine didn't come until after he had blown his bankroll. Isn't that the way life usually goes? Disaster strikes when we are depleted and defeated.

Can you think of examples of this in the Bible? _____

The Repentance

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! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants. And he arose and came to his father".

This man is in a severe crisis. He has boldly taken his own life into his hands, blown all that he had, found himself in dire need, had a series of reversals, called upon his friends and found himself alone, hungry and afraid. I don't know what town that is, but I am sure I have visited it before.

Can you share a time when God's mercy was evident and needed? _____

Three points of repentance are clearly seen here. This prodigal had to come to three distinct points before he was ready for recovery.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Recovery

But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

One of the most beautiful places in Scripture, this return of the prodigal cries out to us all of the mercy and the love of the Father. Our desire to recover from the sickened state we find ourselves in brings us to the Father's house again. Still smelling of the pig sty, with our emancipated bodies we wobble to His Feet. But, there are significant points to bring out here about the father's reaction to his son in the story.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Conclusion Notes

Prayer