



MAKING A CHANGE - Prodigal

Life is full of change. Sometimes, the changes we make are not good. However, don't forget the positive changes you have made. Let's check out a Biblical case study.

Jesus' parable: A certain man had two sons. And the younger son asked his father to give him his portion of the inheritance. So, the father divided his assets three ways, $1/3 + 1/3$ to the older son, and $1/3$ to the younger son. And not many days after, the younger son packed his belongings and travelled to a far country. (Lk. 15:11-13)

1. The younger son left and the older son stayed home. What was different about these two sons? _____

2. It is not recorded that the father protested even though he may have had a good discussion with the younger son. Why did the father grant the son's request? _____

3. Let's climb into the head of the younger son.
 - a. YN Was he just sick of farming?
 - b. YN Did he have an intense hatred for his father?
 - c. YN Did he somehow find out there was a different, more exciting life out there?
 - d. YN Forget the factors mentioned above. Could he have just been struggling with inner discontent?
4. What could have been done there at the house to prevent the younger son from making this poor decision? _____
5. Here's another thought. Did the "Prodigal" just come up with this desire quickly, or did he plan or ponder this for a while? Explain.

6. YN Before we read any further, do you think that the "Prodigal" was thinking right at the time?

...And there he wasted his possessions with wild living. But when he had spent it all, a famine hit the land, and he found himself starving & on the streets. He finally went to work for a stranger in that country, feeding pigs in the fields, and eventually eating with the pigs. (Luke 15:13-16)

***And when he came to himself** - he realized that his family was not starving to death,. But **THAT HE WAS**. "I will go to my father ...I will speak to him .. I will admit my mistakes (yes, my sins) ...I will no longer claim to be worthy & self-important ...I will make the choice to do accept correction, honor God, honor family, and honor myself. **HE AROSE AND WENT HOME**. (Luke 15:17-20)*

7. Y N Would a person be thinking right to "waste his possessions"?
8. Y N Would a person be thinking right to "spent it all"?
9. Y N Would he be thinking right to seek help from a stranger?
10. Why is it that when we run from family and/or run from God, we abandon the important things we used to believe?

11. How desperate do we have to get to forget about family, forget about God, forget about values, etc." _____

12. Y N Is it possible that the addictions and the pleasures can be more powerful than our values & common sense?

2 Corinthians 4:4 - "the god of this age (the devil) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will never see the light".

Acts 26:18 - (What is God's purpose?) - "to open our eyes, to turn us from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God."

John 8:12 - "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

13. Do you see any similarities between your times of change or lack of change and the case study of the Prodigal (younger son)?
