

I Will Arise And Go

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

In **Luke 15** we read the story of the prodigal son. He made a mess of his life just like so many others have done. His ignorance, pride, and lusts produced a combination that lead to his downfall. While he was only one of many to fall into the same trap, he did something that not all others have done. He realized his error and decided that he needed to change his outlook on life. He not only considered his ways, but he put action to his words and did something about it.

In **verse 17** he realized how desperate his situation was, "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" Until we face reality and admit to ourselves just what we are doing, we will never change, or even see the need to change. Sometimes a person will deny to himself what his condition really is because the reality is too painful to face. This young man took an honest look at himself. He didn't try to blame his situation on his father, or anyone else.

We are responsible for our actions and have to deal with the consequences of them. This is not popular in

this day in which we live. Hardly anyone is man enough to take the blame for what he has done. Our society is to blame, or our parents, or someone else, but certainly not ourselves, or at least that is what many people think. God is going to hold us accountable for our actions whether we agree or not. In fact **Matthew 12:36** says, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

The prodigal son came to a decision as he fed the swine. He didn't like where he was and saw that he was the one who placed himself in such a place and condition. Now when we come to a place and realize that we don't like the way things are because of our sinful life, we have two choices. One we can continue being miserable and stay the way that we are. The other option is for us to do like the young man did and admit our mistakes and do something about it.

To do something about our condition is often a painful and difficult thing to do. First is admitting to ourselves that it is we that need to change. This is hard because it is so easy to blame our troubles on someone, or something, else. Then it is humbling to confess that we did something wrong. We hate to show that side of ourselves to others, don't we? That is why some folks

stay in the sinful condition and perish rather than face others and admit their failures. Isn't it something to realize that getting into trouble is pleasurable to the flesh, but getting out is painful?

The prodigal son came to the decision and to the point that he said, "I will arise and go." There were two parts to his recovery, they were decision and action. Both were needed if a change was to be made. Going home took some time and effort. As he went he had time to think about what awaited him at home. His father would be glad to see him he could be sure of. Yes he had disappointed him, but he knew that his father loved him. He left home an arrogant young foolish man, now he returned a poor, changed, and much wiser man.

He might have thought of what his somber, older brother would say. He knew him and that his welcome would not be like the father's. Friends and neighbors too, might be harsh in their opinions of this returning prodigal. Whatever the others might think, or say, it was the father that he would face. He did arise and found a joyful reunion with his father. He had made a bad decision to leave home like he did, but a wise decision to return home. If we are apart from God we can arise and come home to him.

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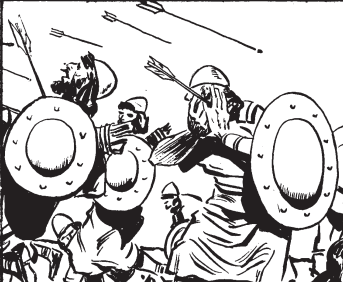
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