

The Far Country

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Essential Truth: *Sin promises freedom but leads us to distance, isolation, and hunger.*

Scripture: Luke 15:13-16

“¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.”

Observations:

- The younger son leaves a life of blessing under his father's provision to seek out new desires for himself.
- He takes all he has with him but does not value these things as he squanders it all away in careless fashion.
- When hard times arrive, he finds his needs are no longer met as he relies on himself and has nobody around him that cares for him.
- He becomes willing to take a lowly job tending to pigs, which were considered unclean animals in his own culture, and was even envious of what little they had.
- Being alone to examine his own heart and circumstances may have opened his eyes to his self-absorbed reality.

Application:

The younger son followed the desires of his own heart, separating himself from his father, which led to an isolated life of deprivation. In a field all alone, he seemed to realize how he had surrounded himself with unholy living and had become willing to indulge in that same lifestyle. His heart was far removed from what his father had desired for him.

When we step out of the noise of our own life and listen intently to what God may have to say about our true focus on this earth, what comes to light in us? What desires do we see in our own hearts during honest reflection that draws us towards self-seeking and further away from the Father?

Prayer:

Lord, may our hearts be softened so that we can be honest with ourselves about what we put ahead of you. May we humble ourselves and live content with what you have given us and with faith that you will always provide more than enough. Amen.

