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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

HIS LIFE WAS ALMOST A TRAGEDY

The record of the Lord's parable of the prodigal son is one that expresses the potential tragedy of a wasted life. Jesus told of a boy who demanded his father give him his inheritance. The boy then went into a "far country . . . and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living" (he Luke 15:13). He spent all of his inheritance and when a famine came, he was "in want" (Luke 15:14). This boy, after finding himself eating the food fed to the pigs, realized what he had done and made the decision to return home to his father, confess his sin against heaven and his father and ask to be nothing more than a servant (Luke 15:17-19). The consequences of his actions could have been more tragic, but he had a compassionate father who welcomed him home with a fatherly hug and a kiss, a robe and a ring, and killed the fatted calf to celebrate his return. The father said, "for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:20-24).

Are you wasting your life in the tragedy of sinful living? Do you find yourself in a spiritual pigpen desiring a change? The record of the prodigal son gives hope for the father in the Lord's parable represents the Heavenly Father who so much desires you to come home to Him. He is watching for you, waiting with open arms to forgive you of your sins and receive you with great joy. Remember He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

The way home is stated clearly in scripture. Through the blood of Jesus, you can be forgiven of your sins (Romans 5:8-9). Initially that requires a response from you to listen to God's Word, believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24), and, like the prodigal son, repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be immersed in water into the death of Jesus where His blood will wash away your sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5). Then you will be home to live, not just as a servant, but as a child of your heavenly Father enjoying all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:7).

If you have completed these steps but have fallen back into sin, the father is eagerly waiting for you, his child, to repent of your sins, confess them to him in prayer. Dear friend, please, do not waste your life in sinful living. Come home. The Father is waiting! greenplaincoc@gmail.com. Visit gbntv.org for free videos on a variety of Bible subjects.