



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. (Rev. 3:20) Those are the words of Jesus calling to the brethren at Laodicea. Did you notice the humility and kindness of Jesus? Jesus is always humble in heart. (Matt. 11:28-30) Jesus does not coerce people, not even His own. He came and died our death. He invites all to come to Him. He doesn't demand or threaten.

And the Spirit and bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. (Rev. 22:17) The calling and appeal to all. All are invited yet none are pressured. Anyone desiring, willing can come. Anyone not willing may go! Jesus in His great love and God in His awesome power will not disrespect the free moral agency of man. A loving God who deserves our all, gave His all and continues to give, can be rejected! The key to the lock is on the inside, within our hearts. You must receive willingly in order to partake.

Read again Luke 15:11-32 about the Prodigal. It is all about Jesus knocking and offering the grace of God in abundance. We see where man makes their most tragic mistakes. (1) *I want what I want and want it now!* (Luke 15:12-13) The son wanted his way and do it his way no matter what was offered. He was leaving the peace and grace of God for his own personal lusts.

One of the largest cancer research hospitals in America is found in Houston, Texas at the M.D. Anderson Hospital. So many people go there and die. Why? Because they go there when cancer is in an advanced state, when hope is almost at zero. When cancer is treated early, there is hope. The same with our hearts. People covet, lust and want every thing to go their way! The problem is found within their heart. We must protect our hearts! The danger for us all is, **we want things our way!**

(2) *The desire for self leads one into pain and heartache.* (v.14-17) The son thought everything would be great. He could do as he pleased, go where he wanted to go and act the way he wanted to act. The exciting never can deliver or live up to the promise of our lusts. When we go after our own desires, Satan has got our hearts to follow, promising everything while never showing the pain and loss you are about to encounter. We see it all around us but it is also become more and more prevalent in the church. Broken lives, homes and hearts. God is right when He said, **For the wages of sin is death...** (Rom. 6:23) It is **always** costly to do your own thing, your own way! The Prodigal ended up eating with the swine. That's what happens to people when they continue to move according to their own desires. Slowly more and more things become loss and you find yourself trying to hold on, only to realize the destruction that has been caused. You end up so low in your life, it seems almost impossible to overcome.

Jesus used this boy to illustrate many lessons but the grace of God was His main object. The boy did not come back home to receive grace. He came to seek acceptance as a slave. (v.17-19) He was going to be content with just having a place to lay his head and work. But what did he find? Notice the Father *felt compassion and ran* to meet him. That's what God wanted all along. The son received the blessings, knowing what he had done and was unworthy. But he opened the door to his heart and the grace of God entered. I wonder what many forfeit today because they refuse to humble themselves? Think about it!!!

Brent