

HOME

MY DESIRES - ON MY OWN

Luke 15:11-13

"Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. "

There are things that you want. Things that you might feel parents, situations, church, or God might be holding you back from. What are they?

Take a sheet of paper and a pen. Make a list of all these things. This could be anything you have at one time or another. As you head from home, take the list with you on the journey. You will need it to add more to it... now, take your parent's money and leave home...

FREEDOM

MY DESIRES - ESCAPE FROM RESPONSIBILITY

Freedom is great! Home was a place that was always holding you back, keeping you from fun... but now you make the rules, the decisions, and you are free... No responsibility, no rules, just free.

With complete freedom, how does this feel? Add this to your list, write them down... and continue on your journey... away from home...

LIFE

MY DESIRES – LIVE IT UP!

So, now you know you are completely free, right? You can now start to live, you have your own life in your hands.

So what do you do? With no rules, what would you do? Where would you go?

Add this to your list, write down as many things as you can think of...

Isn't taking life into your own hands great! Live it up! Continue away from home...

RELATIONSHIPS

MY DESIRES – COOL!

Now that you are free, you have stuff, you can do whatever you want... you are cool. That's the point right? Because now that you are cool, people will like you. You make friends because you can do stuff for them, buy stuff for them, you have made it! YOU ARE COOL! Who is now going to want to be your friend because you are cool? How does that feel? Add this to your list... when finished, keep heading from home...

IDENTITY

MY DESIRES – STUFF ROCKS!

You are free! You can do whatever you want! You are cool!

All this stuff that you have seen on TV, computer, things you have seen others have, you can get! Clothes, electronics, cars, anything!

What would you buy? Add this to your list...

You have it all right? Continue away from home...

FROM MY DESIRES TO GOD'S

MY DESIRES – EATING WITH THE PIGS

Well, it has been quite a ride... but now you have nothing left. Look back at your list you hold from your journey away from home... That is always how it goes; this world will always fail us. It is just a matter of time.

With nothing money left, all your stuff is gone. It has all been taken away, you have nothing left.

With all your stuff gone, the people who thought you were cool are gone. They don't care about you, they cared about what you gave them, they cared about what you had, not you. You are not cool anymore, and you are now alone.

With no stuff, and no one, you cannot do anything. Even the stuff you used to do at home you once despised, you now yern to do. But you can't.

You are now... nothing. You have... nothing. There is no one. How do you feel now?

FROM MY DESIRES TO GOD'S

MY DESIRES – EATING WITH THE PIGS (CONT.)

Luke 15:14-16

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Now, time to go from “My Desires” to “God’s Desires.” As your first step, take your list of everything that represents your desires, and put it in the trash.

Starting with this station, you will follow you path back to home. This time use the “God’s Desires” side of each stop. Start with this station, go now...

FROM MY DESIRES TO GOD'S

God's Desires – Heading home

Luke 15:17-20

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father.

Now...having nothing... you only option is to go back home. Maybe they will take you back? At least as a helper...right?

It is better to do that then stay here with nothing.

Take a new sheet of paper...

Start to head back home...

IDENTITY

God's Desires - Created in God's Image

The Identity you once found in stuff you now need to find somewhere else.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

You are created in God's Image! We all are! Find your identity in God, your creator! While everyone left you from your pathway, living out of God's desires, God pathway for your life, the only one who will never fail you!

How does it feel to know that God has created you in God's own image; to know that you now find your identity in God?

Write this on your new sheet of paper...

Once you finish... keep heading home...

RELATIONSHIPS

God's Desires – Being the Body of Christ

Remember the relationships when you were cool; the ones that ran at the first sign of you failing?

Well, in God's desires in your life you are now part of the Body of Christ. This means you are now part of a unique group of people, who are united in Christ, and are called together. No matter what, in choosing God's Desires, you are surrounded by a community of believers who love God and love you, period.

You are also called to love others as has loved you, and in this we are the body of Christ.

How does it feel to be a part of a group of people who love you because you are created in God's image? Even if you fail, the love you... How does this feel? Write this on your paper...

Continue on your way home...

LIFE

God's Desires – Calling, God's Life for us

We once thought that “I” knew best for my life, but as it played out...we didn't. But now we know we are created in God's image! We are part of the body of Christ through the church! And now we are called to live a life following God and loving God and loving neighbors!

It is in this life, that we will each find our unique gifts we were created to offer, and through that we find life itself! This is truly life!

What might be some gifts that you can start using to help the body of Christ in the world? Write them down, each with a specific idea of how you could use them...

Once finished...keep heading home!

FREEDOM

God's Desires – Freedom from the World

We were once weighed down by what we thought freed us. All the stuff to worry about, all the coolness that needed to be careful to maintain, all the trouble of things to do.... Now hear Jesus words

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The life God calls us to is a life of freedom from the world! No longer to we have to worry about all these things and stuff that in the end don't matter, but now we are offered a life full of meaning and life!

How does this make you feel? Do you feel lighter? Describe how you feel on your paper...

Once finished...you can see home! Head home!!!!

HOME

God's Desires - Welcome Home

Luke 15:20-24

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Even though you came just to be a servant, God has welcomed you home as God's own! Unlike the world, when you betrayed it and it threw you in the trash; when you betrayed God and turn back home, God welcomes you with open arms!

How does this feel? Write this down....

Now that you are home! Welcome to the party!!!!

CLOSING

Luke 15:25-32

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

As you continue on this journey of life, people will be added to the body all the time. Remember how you felt being welcomed in, and share this joy when others are added! And continue to be faithful as the older brother was through it all.