

Part 2: There's a Pig in My Life! Pastor Grant Fishbook January 17 & 18, 2009

A Startling Admission:

There's a pig in my life!

Why we risk recovery OR the excuses for ignoring the pig:

I don't have enough time It feels self-centered I can fix this myself It will hurt too much

There is a way that **seems right** to a **man**, but in the end it leads to death.

— *Proverbs* 14:12

Moments on the downward slope from Luke 15:

A moment of selfishness

The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them -vs. 12

A moment of stupidity

...the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living -vs. 13

A moment of crisis

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need - vs. 14

A moment of isolation and 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. vs. 15-16

The journey toward home from Luke 15:

A decision to get real

When he came to his senses... vs. 17a

A decision to go home

I will set out and go back to my father... vs.. 18a

A decision to confess

...and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and you."... vs. 18b

God's response to everyone who decides to "go home"

So he got up and went to his father. "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. vs. 20.

Next Steps

Join us this Sunday night as we continue 12 Steps: A Spiritual Journey – 6 PM in the Worship Center

Small Group Discussion **Ouestions**

- 1) How would you deal with a pig in your kitchen? Seriously, what would you do?
- 2) How do you normally deal with a problem? A. Tackle it head on

 - B. Weigh my options and formulate a plan
 - C. Seek counsel
 - D. Ignore it and hope it goes away
 - E. Other
- 3) Which of the excuses listed above has kept you from dealing with the real issues of your life? Why would you choose the excuse over the choice to become whole?
- 4) Can you describe a "moment of clarity" when you came to your senses and changed the course of your life because of your relationship with God?
- 5) What does the Father's response teach you about God's character? What does His response teach you about the way He sees you?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?