



S E R M O N   G U I D E

## I'm Getting My Life Back

*Luke 15:17-24*

### INTRODUCTION

Sometimes, we find ourselves veering off course in life – spiritually, morally, or ethically. We get off the path God has for us, and when that happens, we find ourselves unhappy with our current circumstances. We become frustrated with ourselves, unfulfilled in life, and dissatisfied spiritually. We get off course because we think there is something better out there in the world, and we experiment with things that do not align with God's purpose and plan for our lives. Just like the Prodigal Son, we get off track. Our relationships suffer, our faith is weakened, we end up in sin, and consequently, there is wreckage all around us. Our family life may be horrible, we do not pray as we should, and we find ourselves in a place we never thought we would be in. But life doesn't have to stay that way. There's a way to get our lives back on track, and that's exactly what this message is all about.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Take Responsibility

In the story of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:17 says that things began to turn around for the son when "he came to himself." When he reached rock bottom, he woke up, and he realized that where he was wasn't in line with who he was.

The text says, "He came to himself." It is as if other people had been telling him all along, "hey bruh, you ain't moving right. You don't have the right people around you. You out here blowin' money fast." But he couldn't hear it then. This thing had to happen; he had to hit rock bottom, and it caused him to see what perhaps others had been telling him all along. He came to himself.

And in doing so, he began to see not just where he was and what he was doing, but why and how he got there. When he came to himself, he had a moment of reckoning that caused him to come to terms with himself, his behavior, and his mentality. He faced the facts. And he took responsibility.

#### 2. Overcome Self-Doubt

I want to encourage you, if you are dealing with self-doubt, wondering if you really can make that change, turn your life around, quit that addiction, let go of the bitterness, and turn from sin. The Prodigal Son did it. And you can too. It does not matter how long it takes. It will take hard work, it will require discipline, but you can turn your life around.

### NOTES

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God will not force you, He will not do the work for you. But He will be there, He will give you His strength. If it is in His will (which obedience always is), He will give you all you need. But you must leave the doubt behind.

### 3. Overcome Opposition

When it comes to turning your life around, you not only have to overcome self-doubt, but you will also have to overcome the opposition of others. If you read Luke 15:25-30, you'll discover that the young man had a jealous brother who didn't celebrate his return. You would think that his own family member, his brother, would be excited about his transformation, but he wasn't.

You know some people are happiest when things aren't going well for you. They like when you are broke. They like it when you are down, but when you start getting your life back together, then you'll really see what they think about you. The Prodigal Son had to overcome this kind of opposition.

Do not let other people prevent you from getting your life together. You cannot preoccupy yourself with the opinions of people who want to limit your potential because of your past.

### 4. Overcome Shame

In Luke 15:19, the son says, "I'm going to tell my father that I am no longer worthy to be called your son." In other words, he felt that what he had done was so bad that he understood if his father disowned him. Shame, my friend, prevents a lot of people from turning their lives around. Shame is the feeling of humiliation and the guilt that comes when our lives deviate from what others expect.

The reason the father's response in verse 20 is so powerful is that it helped to heal the son of his inner shame. When the father ran to greet him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him, it delivered him from the bondage of guilt and shame that he had been dealing with his entire life.

The father did not keep rehearsing what he had done over and over again. He did not keep reminding his son of the people he had hurt and the mistake he had made. That must have set this young man free. And that is exactly what God wants to do for you – set you free. You are no longer bound to the shame of what you have done, it is time to overcome the shame!

### NOTES

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**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How have you been struggling with self-doubt recently?
2. When was a time you faced opposition from other people in doing what God was calling you to do? How did you respond to that opposition? What did you learn from that situation?
3. Is there an area of your life that has gotten off track that you need to take responsibility for? If so, what is it?

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