

The journey away from God is usually evident by:

Self-indulgence which leads to **separation** v12-13a

¹¹Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father: Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, and set off for a distant country...

Squandering which can lead to **severe** trials v13b-14

^{13b}...and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

Squallier which often leads to **solitude** v15-16

¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Realization which leads to inner **repentance** v17-19

¹⁷When he came to his senses, he said: How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.

Embracing a repentance that leaves no regrets

⁹... your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation (*deliverance*) and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death (*repeated action & harm*). ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. **2 Corinthians 7:9-11**

Return while also taking **responsibility** v20-21

²⁰So 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. ²¹The son said to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Reconciliation which leads to **rejoicing**

²²But 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. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.