

**The journey away from God is usually evident by:**

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

*<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father: Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not 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

*<sup>13b</sup>...and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After 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

*<sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He 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

*<sup>17</sup>When 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! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.*

**Embracing a repentance that leaves no regrets**

<sup>9</sup>... your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup>Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation (*deliverance*) and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death (*repeated action & harm*). <sup>11</sup>See 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

*<sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The 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**

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