

“Does your Christianity make any Difference?”
Strangled by Sin, part 2
Luke 15.11-24
February 14, 2016

Thought starter: You don't need mere behavioral change. You need the power from God that will change the thinking that drives those behaviors.

Out of Sin's Stranglehold

1. Stop digging – v. 17a

† The young man decided to stop digging when he felt the heat, not when he saw the light.

† The first change was in his mind.

2. Confess – v. 21

† Biblically speaking, *to confess* means to agree with God about what He says – about what He says about Himself, about you, about sin – everything.

† Why does God want us to confess? One reason is this: He wants us to own our sin – not to blame or justify or deny or excuse it.

† Unconfessed sin clogs up the “pipeline” between you and God.

3. Ask to be out – v. 18a, 19b

† Why do you need to ask God to be out of your stronghold?

1) It proves a level of desire

- ♥ God won't do it without you. If you don't want it, or don't want it enough to ask to be out, God won't do it for you.

2) It removes all doubt about who delivered you

3) God is driven by relationship

- ♥ God wants you to know the Forgiver more than forgiveness.
He wants you to know the Deliverer more than deliverance.
He wants you to know the Healer more than healing.

4. Think straight – v. 24

1) You are not who you were.

- ♥ If you are in sin's stranglehold, you have believed a lie.

2) Think "root," not "fruit."

- ♥ For almost all sin, the "root" is substituting something for God.

† One of the most common lies we believe: God is holding out on me.