

# Life is a Journey

Every day we're on the move. We're all going somewhere, but where are we going? Every day we make hundreds of choices and those choices have consequences. When we come to a crossroad in life, often we have to make difficult choices regarding the direction we should take. Some choices have life-long consequences.

I'm the youngest brother and I made some bad choices. I live in a big house among rice fields with my father and older brother.

One day my father spoke to my brother and me about being responsible, how we should treat others, and right and wrong. He gave my brother and I some money and said it was an inheritance. He told us we should save it for the future. But I wanted to spend it. I wanted to see the bright lights of the city. My brother argued with me and said I should stay and help him in the fields, but all I could think about was the excitement of the city!

One day I took off and headed for the city, where I met two boys. They were very friendly and wanted to show me around. Before long, I got into trouble. They taught me to smoke, got me drunk, and introduced me to girls and gambling. It was a wild time! But when we had spent all my money, they beat me up, stole my bike and ran off. I was destroyed, depressed, and alone. My money was gone, my bike was gone, and I just wanted to hide. I was so ashamed. What had I done with my life?

I began to think of my family. I had disobeyed my father and my brother and ran away to spend all the money my father had given me on foolish things. How could I go back home? Why would my father take me back? But I began to think that it would be better to work for my father as a servant than to starve here in the city!

I started the long journey home and my heart pounded wildly. What if my father said, "You're no longer my son?" But as I neared his house my father saw me in the distance and suddenly began to run toward me, shouting, "My son, my son!" I ran to him. He hugged me and lifted me off the ground. I said, "Father I am not worthy to be your son!" But he put his arm around me, told me I was forgiven and that I was still his son. He brought me into the house, sat me down at his table, and prepared a feast in my honour.

My brother was still working in the fields. My father went out and told him I had returned. He wondered, "Could I forgive my brother and accept him back as part of the family after what he has done? I stayed and work hard, but my brother has done wrong and is accepted back into the family!" The father forgave the younger son. What do you think the older son should do?

We're all on a journey through life. Every day we make choices, and choices have consequences. So where is your journey taking you today? Your life on Earth is a journey and every journey comes to an end. When your journey ends, where will you spend eternity?

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:6)*

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*