

THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

Luke 15:11-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. You have finally done it! You have accomplished something you have been working toward for the last 13 years; you have officially graduated.
- B. With one's high school graduation, comes a new sense of freedom. You have the freedom to make your own choices and decisions. This freedom is both a great privilege and responsibility.
- C. Sadly, too many young people allow their freedom to choose to lead them places they never should go.

BIG IDEA: Choices have consequences so make wise choices.

THE YOUNG MAN'S NEWFOUND FREEDOM

- A. The young man demanded his father give him his inheritance.
- B. Not many days later he packed up all he had and set out on a journey into a "far country."
- C. The young man's poor choices led him to a pig pen.

WHEN MAKING FUTURE CHOICES ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- A. Before you choose where you go, think about where you want to end up.
 - 1. Throughout his life Paul always kept his mind on the prize he was striving for (Phil. 3:14).
 - 2. We must live our lives with our minds set on things above (Col. 3:1-4).
- B. Understand the choices you make have consequences that affect others.
 - 1. The young man made the choice to live a reckless life despite any consequences (consider his family).
 - 2. Our choices do not always just affect us; they have the power to affect others (Gen. 3).
- C. You always have the choice to have a relationship with God.
 - 1. The young man's story ends on a happy note because he made the decision to return home.
 - 2. God extends us the opportunity to enjoy a loving and faithful relationship with Him (Acts 3:19; Eph. 1:7).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Graduates, you have all achieved something very special. However, this is only just the beginning for you.
- B. Now you have the opportunity and freedom to begin making a lot of your own choices.
- C. What kind of choices will you make? Will you make the kind of choices that lead to everlasting life?