

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 139

PLAYING IN THE PIGPEN

We shared in the last article that only God could clean the inside of a person. It is our responsibility, however, to avoid getting back into the pigpen and playing with the pigs again. If you get in the pigpen and play with the pigs after God cleans the inside, the dirt and stench you pick up from the world will be evident to God and everyone around you. If you insist on playing with the pigs again after you have been saved, God will chastise you until you stop. God loves His children and will chastise them just as a loving father would chastise one of his children.

The prodigal son that Jesus described in Luke 15:11-24 did not come back to his father until he came to his senses. He had to come to the place where he recognized his condition and repented of his wasteful life. True contentment and joy could only be found when the son was willing to return and serve his father. The son could not be restored back into the household until he came back to the father. ¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men 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 men.’ 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. ²¹“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²“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.’” *New International Version*