

## **Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 12**

### **Consider the Consequences of your Choice**

A.W. Tozer, in 'Dangers of a Shallow Faith', reminded believers to choose carefully as our choice has far-reaching consequences. He said; "Everything we are is a result of choices we have made. What we are today is the result of choices we made yesterday, everything we will be tomorrow will be the result of choices we make today."

Tozer continued: "A person's choices distinguish him as either wise or foolish. In the Bible, the word "fool" is not describing a man of mental deficiency. According to God's definition, a fool is one who acts without regard to consequences and who chooses without thinking of eternity. Nobody like that will be in heaven." (Edited extract from A. W. Tozer's "Dangers of a Shallow Faith.")

### **Read Luke 15: 11-32**

The parable of 'The Prodigal Son' describes the relationships between three characters; the father who loved his two sons deeply; the younger son whose foolish choices led him to a life of ruin, the elder son whose jealousy for his brother blinded him to the Father's love. Through the parable, Jesus described for us the patient, compassionate and faithful love of God for sinners.

We will just focus on the younger son whose life was in shambles because of his foolish choices. Selfish and covetous, he asked for his share of the estate when his father was still alive. After taking his share of the wealth, he chose to turn his back on his father and left home. He chose to live a life of self-indulgence and squandered away all his resources. Morally and socially, he was not only lost, he was as good as dead (24, 32). Fortunately for him, he 'came to himself' and repented (17a). For once, he made the right choice to return home and found his father waiting for him, glad to restore him to his original position as his son.

Some of us, like the prodigal son, may have drifted away from God because of our disobedience and wrong choices. Like him, we should come to realize our mistake and to return to our Father who is faithful even when we are unfaithful.

### *Questions to ponder*

1. What were some bad decisions the younger son made and what were the consequences (12-16)? What did he come to realize and decide to do (17-20a)? Share the possible consequences if we choose to disobey a teaching of Jesus (be specific)?
2. How did the father respond to the younger son's return (20-24)? What does this parable tell us about God's love for those who are lost or have wandered away?