

PIG PEN POSITIVES

SOURCES OF WISDOM

A. Methods have multiplied

1. From the library to encyclopedias to You Tube
2. Personal experience
3. Other people's experience - Social media may or may not be helpful here

B. The timeless wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 2:13 NIV)

1. Contrast between God's wisdom vs man's wisdom
2. God's wisdom sourced by God's word and His Spirit

POSITIVES FROM THE PIG PEN (Luke 15:15-24 NIV)

A. He did not let the pig pen determine his destiny

1. Not assuming it was "always going to be this way"

B. He believed that his father was good

1. If the servants ate well, so would he
2. Believed his father would take him back at least as a servant

C. He took ownership of the situation

1. He did not blame his father or the economy or the people in his life
2. Pride could have kept him in the pig pen

D. He received his father's grace

1. He did not earn the restoration given to him
2. He did not refuse the robe, the ring and the party

POSITIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PIG PEN

A. Don't allow the past or present to dictate your future

1. Past mistakes can be overcome - the present can change
2. Possibilities always exist with God (*Mark 10:27 NKJ*)

B. Take ownership of your situation

1. Blaming has existed since the garden
2. It requires a certain amount of strength and honesty to own a situation
(*James 4:10 NKJ*)

C. Believe in the goodness of God

1. Hard to receive help if you believe God wants you hurt (*Matthew 7:11 NKJ*)

D. Accept God's grace to you

1. Through Jesus we have been given so much