

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

Squandering Life Away

There isn't a day I don't think about where I once was in my life and where I am now. I know one thing, I could never go back to my past! I often think about how I wasted many years of my life not trusting God. His grace and mercy are two things we as a people really don't comprehend; if we don't allow Him to have His way with us, we will continue to live independently and this, my brothers and sisters would be considered as "squandering our lives away!" We don't want to do that by any means! For many years I have watched people come and go, not recognizing the true and living God first hand. Many say "I am getting better", but they continue to live in denial and with an attitude of self righteousness. They are still repeating the same old habits as they did in the past. Do not be deceived my brothers and sisters, there are many who are squandering their lives away. Sometimes we come to realize this and sometimes it is too late.

"Squandering life away" reminds me of the parable about the prodigal son. Let us review **Luke 15:11-32** NLT – (11) To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. (12) The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. (13) "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. (14) About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. (15) He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. (16) The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. (17) "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! (18) I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, (19) and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' (20) "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. (21) His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. (22) "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. (23) And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, (24) for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began. (25) "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, (26) and he asked one of the servants what was going on. (27) 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' (28) "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, (29) but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. (30) Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!' (31) "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. (32) We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!"

Many of us can relate to verses 13 – 16, we walk out on God with an attitude of telling Him to give us what He owes us and forgetting that God owes us nothing but **DEATH!** We go out and do what we want and the way we believe it is suppose to be done; Then when we get to those low points of life, He welcomes us back home. That is something truly worthy of celebrating! But there are many who don't or wish not to come back because of pride or possibly fear. So they end up "squandering life away." Jesus wants us to come on home. Stop wasting that valuable time God is blessing you with. You may feel you are not worthy, but in verse 32 God makes it clear; you were once lost and now you have been found. There are many who will display envy or jealousy because you want to make the right decision. They have the opportunity to do the same.

My brothers and sisters, don't squander your life away. Let go of the clubs, stop fornicating, stop sleeping with someone else's wife / husband. Stop trying to get over on people. Stop drinking and smoking! All this is unhealthy and wrong thinking! Allow God to transform your mind. There are many more illustrations of things we need to put away, but I will simply say "Don't squander your life away."

SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 10:34-35

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

No one chills out in the fires of hell.

