

There Are Worse Things Than Being Lonely

“The sun goes down, the blues come around, and the choice is black or white- low down and lonesome, or high as a kite...it’s a headache tomorrow, or a heartache tonight.”

That old Mickey Gilley song is so vivid as it describes the choice millions of lonely people face every single day. Instead of continuing on with a haunting feeling of sadness and a sense we are alone, so many people choose inappropriate alternatives.

For some it is turning to alcoholism or drug abuse. For others it is allowing themselves to be involved in one night stands or other questionable relationships that just aren’t a good match for the person they really are. Many choose to face bad consequences tomorrow rather than the heartache of being alone tonight.

The problem is that the choice never really works. Because when the headache wears off, the heartache is as great as it ever was. Add in shame, guilt, and other consequences to those sinful choices and we really wind up lonelier than we were in the first place.

As a Pastor I have now been involved in hundreds of conversations with people who had made both good and bad choices. Here is an observation I have made over the years: People that take short cuts always pay for it at some point.

When it comes to loneliness, some of the loneliest people I meet are those who had tried to stop being lonely by doing that which they knew to be wrong. I have talked to many Christians who tired of waiting for someone with similar convictions to come into their lives, and settled instead for a relationship with someone who did not share their values. For everyone I meet that have somehow not suffered for that choice, I meet ten that are more lonely on the back side of that choice than they were on the front end.

And then I remember being a young Christian in my 20’s and being lonely as my friends were one by one being blessed with a life mate. Oh, the loneliness I felt then! I had a growing relationship with God, and I had great satisfaction from doing the job God had called me to do, and I would have great times with my friends- but there was loneliness in my heart.

Sometimes my heart ached!. Other times I was tempted to take short cuts to try and help God out a little bit! But the words of a mentor rang in this young minister to be’s ears: “If you marry the wrong person, it will ruin you for the ministry.” With good advice like that I chose not to let any loneliness I was experiencing keep me from God’s perfect will for my life.

Friend, there is a certain amount of loneliness each of us has to face in this life. It may as well come on the right side of godly choices, not the wrong side. When you “trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding,” He can help you make it through even the loneliest of times. Jesus promised, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these (other) things will be added to you.” And the

Psalmist said, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Some of us have made very poor choices in the past- and we are facing the consequences of those choices even now. Don't use past mistakes as an excuse to keep on sinning. First John 1:9 says, "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Your life is like a book, friend. You may not be proud of some of the previous chapters, but by God's grace and through faith in Jesus, you can start writing a new life chapter today! The ones who "wait on the Lord shall renew their strength!"