

## The Consequences of Impatience

### Luke 15:11-21

How serious is a lack of patience? We generally write it off as inconsequential. It's often seen as a weakness rather than a sin—after all, it's not as bad as adultery, theft, or murder. But have you ever considered what your impatience reveals about your attitude toward God?

When we demonstrate an inability to tolerate delay, we are telling the Lord, "I don't trust Your timing; mine is better." Can you see the seriousness of this attitude? Impatience is a display of pride because we are elevating our understanding above that of our all-knowing God.

The prodigal son's journey toward disaster began with impatience. He wanted his inheritance immediately and was unwilling to wait. After taking matters into his own hands, he faced the following consequences:

**He brought sorrow on his family.** Likewise, our impatience hurts those we love.

**He left the security of home.** When we run ahead of God, we often leave behind the voices of reason and wisdom in our life.

**He found himself in ruin.** God's blessing accompanies our obedience, so we stand to lose a great deal when we ignore His timing.

**He felt unworthy.** We don't experience fellowship with the Lord when impatience keeps us outside of His will.

Although the prodigal son was welcomed home, he could never regain the inheritance he'd lost. We, too, must often live with painful consequences as a result of jumping ahead of God. Let's remember it's better to wait patiently until the Lord moves us forward.