

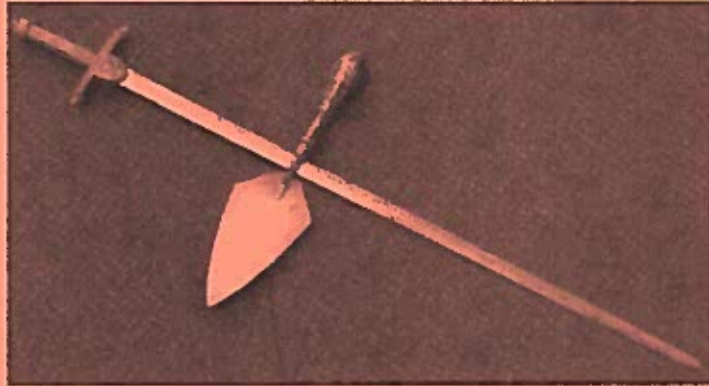
# The Sword and Trowel

Church of Christ at Grissom  
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October 1, 2018



We intend to build and defend: *"As for the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side and so builded."* Nehemiah 4:18

## Eating with the Pigs

When I was a boy at home, my mom would sometimes complain about my messy room. Sometimes she would call it a pig sty. When I was very young I didn't know what a pig sty was, but I knew that it wasn't good. She would often ask why I wanted to live like a pig. I've often thought about this question whenever I read about the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11-32**.

You remember how the Prodigal Son had asked his father for his inheritance. Once he received it he went to a far country where he wasted it with prodigal (wasteful) living. But a severe famine came on the land and he found himself in want. He found a job feeding the pigs but he was so hungry that he would have gladly eaten what he was feeding to the pigs. For any Jew, this was about as low as you could sink. Pigs were unclean animals and Jews could not even eat them. This son had gone from a son of the father who had many servants to serving somebody who obviously didn't care if he lived or died. Now he was sunk to rock bottom and was left hungry.

Of course, you know the rest of the story. He "came to himself" and returned to the father. He was willing to be a mere servant to his father rather than a son. He no longer felt worthy to be called a son. But the father ran to him when he was yet far off. He had compassion on him, fell on his neck and kissed him. He gave him a robe, a ring and sandals and the celebration began.

Here are some of the very basic lessons that I have learned from this parable:

First, there are always people who are living with the pigs. For some it is a matter of profit or business. Others have been "forced" into it because of their poor choices and lack of forethought.

Second, anybody can end up living with the pigs. Nobody is immune to the consequences of poor decisions and not thinking ahead.

Third, whenever you leave the Father you will end up eating with the pigs. In the Father's house the servants have plenty of food. They are clothed and well-provided for. In the Father's house there is love and concern for you.

Fourth, some people will never "come to themselves" till they hit the lowest of lows. We call it rock bottom. Nobody helped this son. The world didn't care if he lived or died. All of his "friends" abandoned him in his need. Only then did he remember how good he had it in his father's house.

When we read this parable we all see how foolish it is to leave the Father's house. However, we all know and can name any number of people who have done exactly that. It may seem like they are just enjoying life for a while, living "high on the hog". But eventually they always end up eating with the pigs. Their lives come unraveled. They find themselves in want. That want is not always financial, but it is always real. This world simply cannot provide what our souls need. Further, this world really doesn't care if we live or die. My mom used to ask why anybody would want to live with the pigs. It is a good question. There is no good answer.

If you are in the Father's house, don't leave for the world. It has nothing to offer you except brokenness. If you have left the Father's house, don't wait till you are eating with the pigs to come to yourself. Return to the Father. He is waiting for you with affection and blessings. He is ready to celebrate your return. Unlike the Prodigal Son, your brothers are also waiting to celebrate your return.

Terry Carter, Evangelist



### COMING EVENTS

- October 1-3 Continuing: Grissom Fall Revival with Josh Stucki speaking, Tom & Ellen Reedy leading songs.
- October 6 Men's Breakfast. Please sign up so that Alan will know how much food to prepare.
- October 9-11 National Prayer Clinic – Grundy, VA. See the bulletin board for more info.

### COMING UP:

- October 14-17 Revival at Wabash Church of Christ with Creighton Beatty
- October 14-17 Revival at Harlan Church of Christ with Terry Peer
- October 28-30 Revival at Buffalo Christian Church with Trey Mouton

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Karen VanNote (Brenda's mom) – doing better/pray for Christian fellowship

Pat Long (relative to Harold Bouthot) – lung cancer/ spiritual

Sherry Barker (Brenda's sister) – spiritual restoration

Jordan & Anna Lynch (preparing for move & her pregnancy)

Christians around the world being persecuted

Jordan Lynch (desires to start a Praising in the Park ministry)

Bonnie Barnhill (deployed to Africa for 7 months)

Emma Grace (Terry & Lisa's granddaughter) - recovering

Mark Whitsett (paralyzed from accident & for salvation)

Frieda Bowman (to sell house & find condo)

our evangelist, elders & deacons (& their families)

Church of Christ at Monticello & Buffalo Church of Christ

Kelly Mercado's mother & sister

Nancy Maggard  
our missionaries

Heather Bowman (Frieda's daughter)

Chris Ponchot (Roann church) – spiritual issues

Harold Bouthot

Jeff VanCuren (continued recovery)

Kendall Faull (life situations)

Steve Emerick – lung problems

ladies' Bible Study

our widows & widowers

Katherine Lappiccio (friend of Angel Mercado)

George Faull

Gary Worley

Summit School of Preaching

*Proverb for the Week;*

*Meditate on this Proverb:*

*10:7 The memory of the just is  
blessed: but the name of the wicked  
shall rot.*

### SERVICES

Sunday School	9:00
A.M.Church	10:00
Men's Praye3r Meeting	5:30
Women's Prayer Meeting	5:30
P.M.Evangelistic Hour	6:00
Wednesday P.M.	7:00

### ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	56
A.M.Church	90
P.M.Evangelistic Service	85
Tithes & Offerings	\$4,890
Wednesday Evening(see next week)	

### Change of Address:

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A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Preacher, sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

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