

---

## “Pig Food”

There comes a time in everyone’s life when you hit rock bottom. The ironic thing is that on the way down you still believe that you’ve got it all under control. In fact, you sell yourself on the idea that you can stop or redirect your situations at any time you choose to. This type of thinking leads you to believe that you still can manage your affairs even though you recognize that you are on a slippery slope. The blaring warning signs along the way do not seem to faze you because, in your mind, there is really nothing wrong. You are convinced that those misfortunes are just a bump on the road that can happen to anybody. You begin to disregard the fact that you have alienated your principles and have isolated yourself from those around you who care. You are no longer listening to the voice of God or even well-meaning Christians. Pride has taken residence. You reach the point where your situation has spiraled out of control. This only leads to desperate actions and decisions which make matters worse. Finally, when your resources and recesses have been exhausted and you can no longer stand even yourself, you have hit rock bottom. Although, the road to rock bottom is different for everyone, the results are the same: a recognition and acknowledgment that you need help and it’s in your best interest to return to your senses and seek God (either again or for the first time).

There is also something similar that we all face on the way down. It’s the very last thing that we experience before hitting rock bottom and becomes the turning point for us. It is “pig food”. Yes, Pig food. And all who have hit rock bottom (and those that one day will) have their own version of pig food. For me, it was a night of drinking Long Island Iced Teas, smoking pot, partying, and a woman in a hotel fifty miles from home (did I mention that was right after lying to my Bible study partner about where I was?) That experience made me so sick that I wasn’t able to get up off the bed the following morning and drive to Sunday church service where my Bible study brothers were waiting for me (I wasn’t committed to the Lord yet, but was studying the Bible). Lying in that bed being absolutely sick to my stomach while a “girlfriend” mocked me about becoming a Christian, knowing all the while that the next week would be the same thing, became *my* “pig food”.

If we examine one of Jesus’ parables, we can see that the prodigal son experienced his own pig food, literally, before he hit rock bottom. (Luke 15:11-32) As the popular parable goes, this young man had everything going for himself; a good life, a good home, a good family. He was to inherit much wealth from his father. His future, one can say, was set. However, that not being enough for him, he took his wealth and set off to a distant country. Through a series of bad decisions, poor judgment, pride, and wild living he eventually squandered his wealth and found himself in a predicament when famine hit that country. His turning point was when he found himself willing to eat the very same pig food that the pigs he was watching over were eating. The Bible says that this is what brought him to his senses. This young man had to hit rock bottom when he realized that he was willing to go as far as eating pig food to survive. It became the lowest point in his life. It is then that he decided to turn things around and returned home.

Like the prodigal son, who came to his senses only after acknowledging his lowest point, we too must be willing to recognize that low point and come to our senses and return to the Lord or accept Him for the first time. He promises to take us as we are.

*By: Jesus Maymi*

© 2008 Empowered Life Ministries, Inc.

---