

“I Would Give Ten Dollars to Have that One Back!”

A sports writer for a New York newspaper was deeply impressed by this truth one day as he watched a baseball game. Let me share what he wrote. In typical sports jargon, he said, “Lou Gehrig came to bat with two out in the ninth. The winning runs were on second and third. New York was one run behind, and a hit meant a win. The count on Lou Gehrig went to three balls and two strikes. The grandstand was in an uproar. The pitcher wound up deliberately and the third strike came smoking in straight across the middle of the plate and the umpire called ‘strike three,’ for Lou Gehrig had not moved his bat. Very slowly Lou turned and spoke to the umpire. At this point the crowd went wild, for no one had ever heard Lou Gehrig with an umpire. We reporters all piled over the seats and right onto the field. We swarmed around the umpire. ‘What did Lou Gehrig say to you?’ We all asked in one breath. ‘Whatever it was, it would make headlines on the sports page.’

The umpire smiled and yelled to Lou Gehrig to come over. ‘Lou,’ he said, ‘Tell the boys what you said to me when I called that third strike on you.’ Lou looked a little bewildered as he answered, ‘Mister ump, I only said **I would give ten dollars to have that one back.**”

The reporter was so impressed that when he wrote up the story, he added, “There are people all over the world who would give ten dollars or ten thousand dollars to get just one minute back for the privilege of changing something they said or did in that minute. But there is no road back.”

Friends, I am here to tell you that there is a way back, and the prodigal son found it. The only way back for the wayward brother is the Biblical way through repentance and confession to God of one’s sins.

1. **Acts 8:22** – “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.” **That’s what it says!**
2. **1 John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” **That’s what it says!**

3. The prodigal son found the way back, but he did not go back just like he went out.
 - a. You are never the same after sin. It ravages our lives.
 - b. Sin will always:
 1. Take you farther than you wanted to go.
 2. Keep you longer than you wanted to stay.
 3. Cost you more than you were willing to pay.
 - c. God can blot out the yesterdays from His book of remembrance, and we can have a clean page and a new start in life.
 - d. This is one of the beautiful promises that are to be found in Christ Jesus. There is a way back—and it is through Christ.