

Mary Rice

Assignment 13-1

3. 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13) Write a parallel situation.

A parallel situation would have to be with my daughter. She was 14 at the time and she came home with a lovebite. 'Who is he I said I'll kill him' (even though I really didn't mean it just a mother's rage) and she said 'mum it wasn't a boy.'

That incident started two years of the most conflict I have ever had in my life. She left me at 16.

I really do feel that the Lord was with me at that time. I talked to my Pastor about it. I talked with a Pastor in Perth about it and many of my church brethren and members of my family; my boss and work colleagues and Friends. Many people had varying opinions of what I should do!

My daughter didn't really want God in her life and I really wanted God in her life for her. She wanted to sleep with her friends in the same bed with her in her room. Now I am a god-fearing woman and I did not want that. I am her mum and wanted to bring her up the right way, God's way!

It says in **Romans 1:32** 'Who knowing the righteous judgments of God that those who practice such things are deserving of death not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them'.

Well I wasn't about to approve of that! If I let her sleep with her friends in her bed I would show that I was approving of it which I wasn't.

I went through a stage years ago before my husband left, we were having marital problems where I felt that a friend of mine and I were becoming intimately close. She and I were often sharing everything together in conversations and I loved contact with her. I had known her for years.

I had feelings that I wanted to kiss her and I was very scared of these feelings. That's as far as it went for me though. It was just a thought.

The church that I was in at the time told me to cut off all contact with her and a Christian psychologist at the time told me to throw out anything in my house that reminded me of her. So I did that!

Now years later it was happening with my daughter.

God gave me strength at that time because of Christian Brothers and sisters who were willing to help me.

First of all my friend was a woman that I had to see as we shared business transactions together and one of the sisters at church said that every time that I see this woman that she would be there with me. So I brought her along.

- I prayed Jehovah God please help me! One of the scriptures that got me through was **‘Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my anxieties, and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting (psalm 139;23-24)**

God did lead me in the way everlasting by prayer and asking Him for help and godly brothers and sisters.

Now with my daughter it felt much harder. She was my daughter and flesh and blood. How could I refuse her anything!

But if I didn't I would be to God as if I was approving of her lifestyle choice, knowing God's word had saved me from a fate of not knowing God, a fate worse than death.

Psalm 121;1-2 was always on my mind when it came to her. I will lift up mine eyes until the hills from whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.'

A Christian Elder was always quoting this Scripture to me and it stuck.

My daughter was adamant that she didn't want to listen to me! She also was hoping that I would allow her to be intimate with her friends in her room. She swore and called me every name under the sun for 2 years, threw things, yelled, screamed and cried.

‘Oh Lord help me’ I pleaded.” I love my daughter, but I can't do this thing she wants without You in my life. I need You in my life too. So I said ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me’ (**phillipians 4;13**)

So I said ‘No’ to her requests many times.

A family member bats for the other team as well and his advice was” Do what your daughter wants, otherwise you will miss out on so much of her life and you will cut her off forever”

But God kept telling me through prayer ‘that's a risk you have to Take’ but what ever happens Mary I will be with you, I will strengthen you! ‘

So it came to the day my child finally moved out. She didn't want a fold up bed in the lounge with her friend to sleep on whenever she was around. She wanted a physical intimate relationship with her friend under my roof.

My Pastor kept discussing Romans 1-26-27 with me which says' **'For this reason God gave them up to vile passions, for even their women exchanged their natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another'**

God's word has a lot to say about homosexuality and it is not His will that we go down that path or approve of them that do so. But how do we maintain love for our family members?. It was very hard. My daughter left home and went to live with my ex-husband. I cried,' 'Lord why? I am doing your will. Why does it hurt so much ?'He kept whispering in my ears,' 24 years'

'Mary,' he says' it may take 24 years for her to return to me to be the daughter you want her to be, to love me! Trust me, you are quoting in My Word, **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**, now trust me!' I sent Jesus to die for you, to suffer for you, you have to take up your cross and follow Me (Matthew 16;24) This is what taking up your cross and following me is all about! '

So really, yes I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. My daughter isn't that detached from me now. She still visits and rings occasionally. We don't have a relationship that many parents have with their children and they are constantly doing things for each other. It is because of this rift of homosexuality because it isn't one thing I can support. But I do support her other endeavors. It is Christ who has given me the strength to endure the hard years that I have had and I probably will have many more to face, with her not living with me, but living with her girlfriend. It has been very lonely and painstakingly unbearable at times but Jesus is with me and I feel his presence daily telling me that I did the right thing.

She has left home early and not as one marrying a man, loving him and bearing his children. 'One day,' Christ says' One day, have faith Mary, he says!

Assignment 13-2

I misread the question, so I have interpreted Luke 15:11-32.

Father

There was once a happily married couple who had a 16 year old daughter. She went to her father and said 'Dad I am a lesbian and I want to experience intimacy with my friends! I don't want God and I don't want your rules! You are too strict! You don't want me to have any freedom and any fun! You don't want me to have a boyfriend if I was that way inclined or a girlfriend if I choose to. You don't want me to eat all the junk food I want and I want to make choices for myself.! You want me to eat what you and Mum cook for me; vegetables and everyrhing You feel that is good for me. You want me to be home at certain times and study and do well at school and I don't care about school.'

'I don't want all that! I want to find a job for myself.! I don't like study. I want to be intimate with whomever I wish, male or female!'

'I want to live with my friends and their family. They accept me as I am. They don't judge me. They want me to be happy. They don't want me to love God because they don't and they will give me the freedom that I wish to have.

So the father cried and the mother cried and the father said 'go then!', and the father and the mother prayed that their 16 year old daughter would come to her senses.

So the daughter went off to live with her friend and her parents .

Now this child's parent's let them sleep together in the child's bedroom in her bed. They were both 16 year old girls who physically thought that being gay was the ultimate thing to be!

But the parents had 10 children. So eventually the mother said,' We can't have you here, we can't afford to feed our children let alone you! If you stay here you are going to have to leave school and find a job and pay board!'

So the child found a job. She was walking home from school one day and a man picked her up and said ,'work for me and I'll pay you big bucks'. So the 16-year-old did as he asked and he paid her big bucks and she was able to return to her friend's parents 'house. But at night she had to sleep with these men and at their places which she didn't enjoy.

On one such occasion the girlfriend said to her'you can't sleep here with me and sleep with them too, Go!' Go from my parents' house!'so she left and she had to leave school .

She had money so she rented a hotel room for many weeks and men came to her and she went to them through this man that she met.

But eventually the bills were too high and she was spending more than she was making because her employer took most of her income. She felt to herself that she didn't like living this way! Her parents were Christians and loved her. They didn't give her McDonald's every

night. They cooked her lovely meals. Her males that came to see her were only interested in bed activities and it was just an action to them. They did not love her.

Towards her 17th birthday she became pregnant, not using contraception at times. 'What am I going to do she asked herself.' 'I don't want an abortion. I want to bring my baby up well but I don't even want a baby. I know what I will do. I will go back to my father. I will say to him that I have sinned. I will ask his forgiveness and that of my mum.'

Being pregnant meant she was sick. She couldn't eat. She was sick all the time. She could not work. She couldn't pay the hotel bills. Her employer chucked her out. So being checked out of the hotel, spewing up on the ground she found a tree that she climbed up in and slept there. It was no good. It was not comfortable. It was cold. She was hungry and she kept vomiting.

She had very little money.

It started to rain. 'what am I going to do', she thought,' I will ask my father if I can come home. I am stupid being pregnant and not even 17.. I have no food now and none for my baby. My cat back at home eats better than me!'

'I will ring my dad'. So she finds a payphone and rings him 'Dad', she says 'I want to come home', but he was not there so she leaves a message on the answering machine.

'Maybe Dad doesn't want me home' she said' maybe they are out at church'. 'I know what I will do 'she says,'I will make a life for myself without a baby. I will have an abortion.

At the abortion clinic she pays her fee with what little she has. 'I can't have a baby now!' she says,' I can't even look after myself. I am so sick all the time. I don't want this: all the vomiting and if I don't eat i will die. I don't feel like eating anyway.

At the abortion clinic the Dr

Asks her to put her feet in the stirrups and lie on the bed. And as he is about to put the instruments in her she suddenly feels she has to say **no**! So she says **no**" and that she can't go through with it.!

Having paid her fee beforehand she wants it back. But can't get it back and she couldn't believe what she was about to do!

'I am going to go home' she says 'I can't make it on my own'. I miss my mum and my dad' so she rings and no answer. She spends her last coin.

On the answering machine she says 'Dad I want to come home I am sorry Mum and Dad.'

So she starts to walk home. It is nearly evening in winter and raining. Her feet hurt because she has to walk so much and so far to her parents house. The abortion clinic was in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but her parents live in Eastwood, fair way by bus from where she was. So she walks along Woodville road and Port road and has no bus fare. It is dark and still raining. She turns to Port road and walks towards the city. She feels like dry wrenching because of morning sickness being pregnant and this sickness, lasts all day.

On Port road she decides to put her hand out for a lift but no one comes to her aid. She sees the cars down Port road and hopes to God a red car drives past as it may be her father. 'Why would he look for her,' she wonders' but she still prays to God that he would! God I need you she says!

Coming up Port road she spots the Entertainment Centre and there she decides to stop for shelter. But as she turns into the shelter coming along a car bibs, a red car. It is her dad's car!

Wow she is happy to see it. She hops in and it is her parents.' 'Dad I'm so sorry I was mean to you and I wanted to have my own way. Mum I am so sorry I was swearing at you and didn't want to do as you said. Please forgive me!'

'Child I love you' her dad says 'I forgive you and her mother says the same.'

'How did you know I'd be walking this way.?' She said to her parents. 'Well God told us. We have gone out every night and looked for you child,. God told me to go down Port road so now we at here'. Her father said

'Dad I'm sorry I wanted to be a lesbian'. I wanted my own way. I'm not fit to be called your daughter anymore and welcomed back home. I have committed sins and sinned against God and against you both by not obeying you . I almost had an abortion but because I love you both so much I couldn't do it. I love God too. I couldn't kill my baby. You taught me all about God and Jesus and how to be responsible. I am willing to learn more now.'

With that the father put his arms around his daughter and said' My child, we love you, let's go home and celebrate and we will give you a good feed and we will make sure you are warm and dry. We will invite your uncles and aunts and your friends that you had last year to a party and welcome you back into our lives. For you were

lost and you are now found. It's like you were dead but now you are alive because you are a new creation in Christ . You have said sorry.'

So with that he took her home and the mother put on her a beautiful dress that she had bought her for this occasion.(Because neither parent had given up hope that she would return) Even though the child was pregnant the dress did fit because she wasn't too far gone. So the family rejoiced with friends and relatives that she was home and helped her bring up her baby several months later.

I mistook this assignment but before I realized, it was too late because abortion is so prevalent in our society, I have likened it to wasteful living in biblical society.

assignment 13:3

1 Timothy 6;10 reads. 'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil' .. Timothy.

Take this Scripture through the interpretive journey, including the application process. Grasp the text in their town. Summarise the original situation and the meaning of the text for the Biblical audience.

Paul's first letter to Timothy was likely written between AD 62 and AD 66. It was likely written while Paul was in Macedonia. **(1 Timothy 1:3.)** and Timothy was a young pastor shepherding the flock in the church in Ephesus.

The original situation in Ephesus at that time was that false doctrine was creeping into the church and Paul wanted to make sure that Timothy understood his role to safeguard the church in public worship. He also wanted to make sure that Timothy knew how to be a mature leader and that Timothy had to be on guard lest his youthfulness served as a liability, rather than an asset, to the gospel.

Paul warned Timothy that the church should not teach false genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification, which is in faith.**(1 Tim 1:4)** He also says to Timothy that the purpose of the commandment is to love from a pure heart, from a good conscience and from sincere faith, **(1 Tim 1:5-7)** and he says that some have strayed and turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor the things which they affirm!

So the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil would have to mean here that in the church in Ephesus the love of money was apparent . People desired to be above their station, to be Elders, when they weren't Elder material and their teachings were driven not from a pure heart or from a good conscience.

Paul also says to Timothy in **1 Timothy 3: 1** that if men desire to be Bishops they desire a good work, but they must be temperate and sober minded Able to teach. .. not greedy for money, but gentle, (v 2 and 3) and in verse 7, he tells Timothy that these men must have a good testimony lest they fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.'

Now I would say that the love of money would be a snare of the devil because one wouldn't have the faith to believe that God would supply all their needs. If they worked many long hours, trying to provide for their families, but not being there for their families when appropriate.

Paul also goes on to add in verse 10, which is our key scripture of 1 Timothy 6 that some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves with many sorrows!

Paul tells Timothy, 'But you, O man of God, flee these things,(greed) pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love , patience etc, (v11) because how could he lead the congregation if he pursued these things! (Greed)In first **Timothy 4: 12** Paul tells Timothy to be an example.

The biblical audience in Ephesus would have understood Paul's letter to them.

Measure the width of the river. What are the differences between the biblical situation and our situation?

The biblical river really isn't that wide here. The differences are that they were in Ephesus in AD62 and we are in Australia in 2026. We all need money and have to have it to live.

They kept the Sabbath in Ephesus and many of us keep the Sabbath in Australia. We are surrounded by many other churches who do Sunday worship and they may have been too, probably what Paul was meaning by false doctrine. The love of money being the root of all kinds of evil is as relevant today as it was then.

Back then they still would have had alcoholics, we do too, but now we have legalized pokies. The thrill of winning money is an addiction that most likely comes under the umbrella of 'straying from the faith and piercing themselves with many sorrows'(**1 Tim 6:10**)

This is because one may not want to celebrate the Sabbath anymore and may want to work on it to earn more money for material things like expensive yearly holidays , flash cars or they may want to gamble their hard earned money away. Many sorrows may include ; wife

walking out, not having enough money for food to feed the kids, relationship breakdown and homelessness.

These problems would have been back then, too, if the love of money was an obsession, which it seemed like it was! Nothing else matters to the lover of money. It becomes an idol, a false God, which Jehovah God says 'have no other gods before Me' (**Exodus 20:5**)

Cross the principalizing bridge. List the theological principles communicated by The passage

The theological principle is that greed not money, itself corrupts the human heart. The concept is that it leads to idolatry. Money becomes a god. It leads to the loss of spiritual contentment because people want more and more because they feel they will be happy and it leads to misplaced trust away from God.

Obsession with financial gain leads people towards temptation, dishonesty, theft and exploitation of others.

Consult the biblical map. How does our theological principal fit with the rest of the Bible?

'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil' fits with the rest of the Bible because Jesus taught in **Matthew 6; 24** that no one can serve two Masters stating that you cannot serve both God and money (mammon)

Proverbs 15; 27 warns that the greedy bring ruin to their households, showing how the pursuit of gain tears families and communities apart.

Hebrews 13; 5, says 'be content with such things as you have, let your conduct be without covetousness.' and in Timothy, which fits in with the letter from Paul, first **Timothy 6; 6** which says that godliness with contentment is great gain. This means that if you live a life that honours God, you will be at peace and happy with what you have, not wanting more and more. Verse 7 in this letter states 'that we enter this world with nothing and leave with nothing,' so physical wealth is not what matters most

Grasp the text in our town. How would Christians today live out the theological principle!

Christians should live out the theological principle by not loving money to the extent of all else They should.

1. Love God.

2. Love family
3. Be content with what they have
4. Fight the good fight of faith.

This means laying hold of eternal life to which **‘they’** were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses **(1 Timothy 6:12)**

Paul is talking to Timothy here. But we can use it to our advantage and set the worship of God first and have the sacrifice of Jesus continually in our sights. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for our life for our sins to give us Eternal life.

Discover a genuine parallel in your world.

A genuine parallel in my world and there are many would be a drinker and this one was never able to hold down a relationship. No woman would have him long enough because he drank too much.

He loved earning so he could go to the pub and that's all he did and drink. Eventually his partner and kids walked out on him. He found himself sleeping under a bridge many nights. He lost his licence so he could not work. He was unemployed for a time and one of his sons was a drinker too, committed a crime and ended up in jail. But before all this happened his son before jail, very young at the time had a child with someone and this drinker that I know had to bring up his grandson.

Eventually life turned out well for him. He gave up the booze after much help with AA and me giving him a Christian DVD to watch and much prayer which ones did, his life was back on track, because he reasoned, there's no one else to bring up my grandson.' I can't waste this opportunity.'

This drinker situation that I know, it could have been likened to the Prodigal Son Parable because this man I know the bottle was his god. Breakfast lunch and tea there was always a beer in his hand and he never had any money for things. He lost everything; partner, children, career and was a bad example to one of his kids because his son committed a life of crime and the other was a drinker too. This man had no place to stay and slept under bridges, was drink driving and almost killed someone and lost his licence.etc.

But with his grandchild he woke up and thought 'No, if I'm going to influence this child I'll have to not have another drink and if I'm going to tell my son not to be a drinker I'm going to not have a another drink either. I have to help my other son! The grandchild has just turned 21 and my drunken alcoholic somebody has been alcohol-free for many

years now. His other son is still struggling however and the one in jail is out now and both sons are helped very much by their father, and that would not have happened if their father had not stopped drinking when he did.

The scenario can be likened to the prodigal son because the prodigal son, although he had riches for a time, he lost everything. Then he came to his senses when he was at the lowest of the low and said, 'I know what I will do I will return to my father. His servants get better treated than I and are fed better than me and I can't even eat the pigs pods that they get fed and no one will give me anything' **(Luke 15; 11-24)**

My person I know came to his senses when he lost everything too; his health his job his license his relationships and one son was in jail. He almost ran someone over and he woke up to himself when he had to look after his grandchild. The mother of the grandchild would originally not let it happen in his current position. So he knew with nothing left that he had to make changes and unbeknown to him people prayed for him and he was willing to be given Christian films with good values to watch . Yes God works wonders?

