



A ROBE, RING, AND SANDALS
LUKE 15:11-22

A Robe, Ring, and Sandals

- After a troubling period in his life in 2004, Frank Warren handed out 3,000 self-addressed postcards to people on the street asking them to anonymously mail him their secrets – he received over 100,000

SHARE A SECRET

You are invited to anonymously contribute a secret to a group art project. Your secret can be a regret, fear, betrayal, desire, confession or childhood humiliation. Reveal *anything* - as long as it is true and you have never shared it with anyone before.

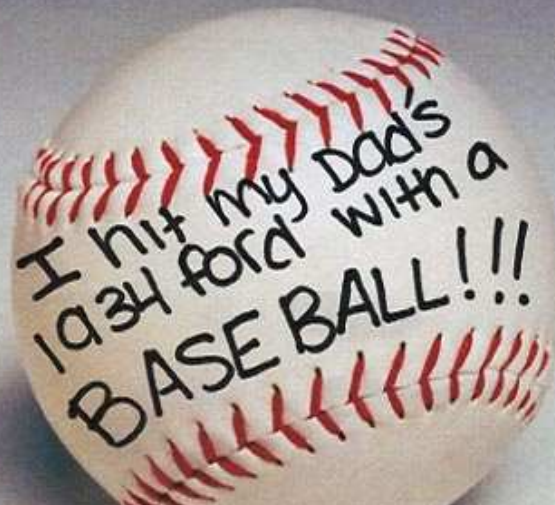
Steps:
Take a postcard, or two.
Tell your secret anonymously.
Stamp and mail the postcard.

Tips:
Be brief - the fewer words used the better.
Be legible - use big, clear and bold lettering.
Be creative - let the postcard be your canvas.

SEE A SECRET
www.postsecret.com

Place
postage
here.

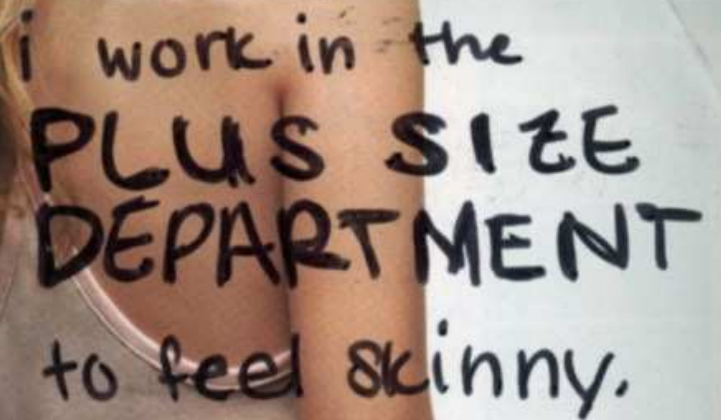
PostSecret
28241 Crown Valley Pkwy
#F224
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677



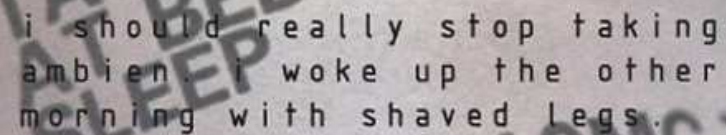
I hit my dad's
1934 ford with a
BASE BALL!!!

My wife told me about a guy
at work whose wife of
twenty years walked out
without warning.

Two weeks later my wife of
fourteen years left me for
the guy from work.



i work in the
PLUS SIZE
DEPARTMENT
to feel skinny.



i should really stop taking
ambien. i woke up the other
morning with shaved legs.

don't remember shaving them.

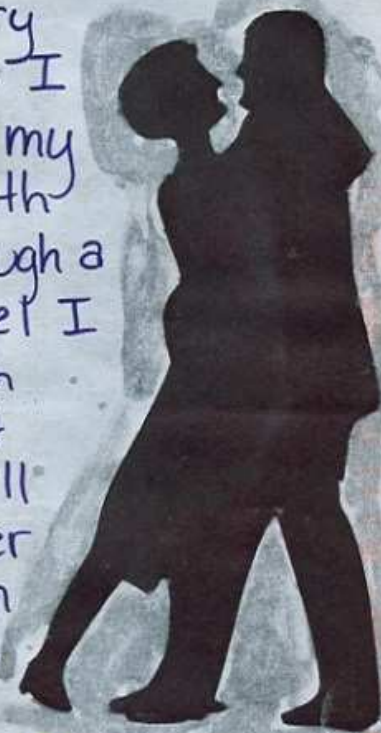


I'M AFRAID I
GAVE UP THE LOVE
OF MY LIFE
TO BECOME AN
OFFICER IN THE
ARMY...
CAN I SACRIFICE
THAT MUCH?

The only thing that keeps me
from hanging myself every night is the thought of making
the wonderful people who I call my friends sad.



Every time I hold my breath through a tunnel I wish that you'll never again have the urge to kill yourself.



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- One postcard read, “I have been traveling the world for a year. I contact my family primarily through postcards because there’s not enough room there to tell them I’m completely lost.”
- Another had an old picture of Santa Clause and two small boys with the words, “I wish my sons would contact me.”
- Another man took a picture of his hands in the praying position with the words, “I don’t know how to go back to God, and I want to more than anything else in the world.”
- Three cards about lost relationships and finding a way back

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- God handed Moses 613 commands known as the Old Testament Law that addressed relationships with Him and each other
 - **Exodus 20:2-3, 7 NCV**, “2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves. 3 You must not have any other gods except me. 7 You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly.”
 - **Exodus 20:12-16 NCV**, “12 Honor your father and your mother so that you will live a long time in the land that the Lord your God is going to give you. 13 You must not murder anyone. 14 You must not be guilty of adultery. 15 You must not steal. 16 You must not tell lies about your neighbor.”

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- The Bible has many examples of fragile relationships
 - Adam and Eve to God
 - Caan to Abel
 - Jacob to Esau
 - Joseph and his brothers
 - Jesus and His family
- Our most precious relationship is with our Heavenly Father
 - This is the reason Jesus left the glory of heaven and put on human flesh
 - **Luke 19:10 NIV**, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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- Jesus even gave us a parable about a broken relationship in the Prodigal son and his Father
 - **Luke 15:1-2 NIV**, 1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”
 - Listen for the relationship statements in our verses this morning
 - Why would Jesus do this, “*welcome sinners into his life and eat with them*”?
 - “If Jesus really was divine, He would not be associated with these disgusting people” – What did the Pharisees mean?

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- **Luke 15:3-7 NIV**, 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep (*or head of cattle*) and loses one of them (*not in the field*). Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country (*pasture*) and go after the lost sheep (*cow/calf*) until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders (*not the cow maybe a calf*) 6 and goes home (*brings it back into his pasture*). Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep (*you can stop helping me look*). 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

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- **Luke 15:8-10 NIV**, 8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one (*one tenth of her wealth*). Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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- **Luke 15:11-13 NIV**, 11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.”
 - The main focus of this parable is not the sins but the lostness, broken relationships, not just the father but brother, family, towns people
 - The true emphasis is not on the sons, but on the father
 - The central truth of the parable is the picture of our heavenly Father's heart of love toward undeserving rebellious sinners
 - **Romans 5:8 NIV**, But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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 - Questions -
 - Why do you think the younger son act like this?
 - Jealousy like Caan and Abel, Joseph and his brothers
 - Striving for position within the family like Jacob and Esau
 - Felt like he had an overbearing Father, older brother, or community
 - Get away from all the religious rules and obligations

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 - Questions -
 - Who or what was the son really running from?
 - God and His authority, God’s rules – far country
 - He thought he was running to freedom

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 - Questions -
 - Why did the Father give the son his future share of the father’s inheritance?
 - Why did God trust us with our portion of life even when He knows we can misuse it?
 - God has given us the ability to choose and with that we must be given to opportunity to choose

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 - Questions -
 - How would the son’s decisions affect the family and community?
 - Brought great shame upon his father and his family
 - The community would have looked upon the son as dead to them

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- **Luke 15:14-16 NIV**, 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
 - Questions –
 - What do you think the son's life was like seeing this time approach?
 - Why didn't the son go home immediately?
 - Notice the deception of sin's promises

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- **Luke 15:17-19 NIV**, 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’”
 - **NCV**, When he realized what he was doing
 - Do you think he was trying going to try and manipulate his way back into his father’s house?
 - “Wait a second there may be a way out of this” or “I can still recover from this”
 - The son is saying all the right things, showing repentance, but talk is cheap

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- **Luke 15:20 NIV**, 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”
 - What do you think the journey back was like for the son?
 - What do you think it was like when he stepped back into Israel?
 - Notice the son has not had an opportunity to say anything, cleaned up, prove himself
 - The son hadn't even made it all the way home yet

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- **Luke 15:20 NIV**, 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”
 - The son’s character changed when he saw the character of his father – he saw his father with fresh unfiltered eyes
 - The father ran the gauntlet for his son
 - The father knew what the talk of the town would be
 - He knew his son would be judged and found guilty
 - He knew his son would not be able to stand up against the sin held over his head

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- **Luke 15:20 NIV**, 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”
 - So the father ran the gauntlet to him threw his arms of acceptance around him and kissed his sinful dirty soul with his kiss of forgiveness
 - He didn't take the son back reluctantly or grudgingly but fully
 - He didn't remind his son of the hurt caused or what he had lost
 - He didn't demand anything from his son
 - What had the son said to the father at this point?
 - What had the son done at this point?
 - He simply came home with a different attitude, focus

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- **Luke 15:21-23 NIV**, 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’
 - I have sinned against heaven and against you – true
 - I am no longer worthy to be called your son – true
 - I am now just a hired servant to you, no longer worthy to be called your son – false
 - Sonship is by birth or adoption

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 - Notice the word “quick” in verse 22
 - The robe stands for honor; the ring stands for authority; the shoes stand for a son as opposed to a slave who wore no shoes
 - Making his point, the father held a celebration for the whole town showing how they should respond to his son
 - For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found

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- Some things I thought about this week in thinking of this parable
 - Far country
 - There are many roads to the far country, but they all run through human pride and rebellion
 - Some roads are more obvious than others
 - **Matthew 7:13 NIV**, For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

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- Some things I thought about this week in thinking of this parable
 - The far country is a land of poverty
 - It cost the son the fellowship of his father and security of his home
 - It cost the son his freedom
 - It cost the son his future
 - **Jeremiah 5:25 NCV**, “Your sins have kept you from enjoying good things.”

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- Some things I thought about this week in thinking of this parable
 - The far country is a land of deception
 - Sin had distorted his vision, clouded his mind (*when he came to his senses, Vs. 17*)
 - Eve was correct when she said "The serpent deceived me and I ate (*Gen. 3:13*)"
 - **Hebrews 3:13 NIV**, But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

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- Some things I thought about this week in thinking of this parable
 - The far country was not measured by distance
 - Anywhere a man is away from God – far country
 - Anywhere a man is without God or forgetful of God – far country
 - Whenever you are not in fellowship with God, your life is a far country and you do not belong there
 - Jonah ran away from God; the Religious Leaders were in Israel, yet their heart was far from God

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- Some things I thought about this week in thinking of this parable
 - God uses the hardships of the far country to call his children home
 - Nation of Israel
 - Returning home from the far country
 - The son recognized his desperate condition
 - The son recognized his father's sufficiency
 - The son's determination to return
 - There is the confession of the son

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- Some things I thought about this week in thinking of this parable
 - Always remember the reception of the father
 - Accepted with arms open wide, forgiven, with His holy kiss
 - A Robe, Ring, and Royal sandals of sonship always await those returning from the far country
 - The robe is the answer to "I have sinned."
 - The ring is the answer to "I am no more worthy to be called thy son."
 - The sandals constitute the answer to "make me one of thy hired servants."
 - The father answered every one of the son's repentance statements with love and acceptance

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- A great philosopher and theologian once said, “Not matter what, you can overcome your past. With help, you can look to God, you can overcome your past and be reborn.”
 - It was not a preacher who said this
 - It was Sylvester Stallone known as “Rocky Balboa”



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