The Ricky Blackmon Story: How Does The Son Of A Preacher End Up On Death Row?

David Banning · Proverbs 13:13–15

INTRODUCTION

- So how does the son of a preacher end up on death row?
- I started running with the wrong crowd. I wanted to be popular. I wanted to be accepted, and I chose a crowd that was doing things that my whole life that I believed was wrong.
- He saw so many of his problems as beginning in his youth, that his choices of his youth were pivotal for him.

1 Be Careful About the Friends You Choose

1 Corinthians 15:33; John 12:42

- If Ricky could be here, he would want to say emphatically that the lesson to learn from his life is be careful about the friends that you choose.
- The friends I chose in high school when I was 15. My whole life boils down to that moment and that choice.
- What his friends thought came to be more important than all the things he'd been taught his whole life, more important than what his mom and dad were saying, more important than what he believed God wanted him to do.
- Do not be deceived. Evil companions corrupt good morals.
- Many of the rulers who believed in Jesus but wouldn't confess Jesus.
- Every time we allow wicked influences in our life to pull us into sin, we're choosing the crowd over Christ.

2 You Need to Listen to Your Parents

Ephesians 6:4; Ephesians 6:1–3

- Everything that he did, he did over their intense protest.
- David, I wish, I wish I had listened to my dad.
- You've got a mom and dad who love Jesus, and they're trying to get you to love him too and follow him, Ricky would want to say, you need to listen to those people.
- Bring up your kids in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise.
- If you've never changed your mind about something because of your mom and dad, and they weighed in on it and what they thought, you don't honor your parents.

3 You Need to Stay Away From Sin

2 Samuel 11; Psalm 34:12–14

- He never imagined that just having a few friends who were into the wrong things that one day would lead him to get involved in those things.
- It just took one night. When all the choices sort of converged. The crowd, the drugs, the lifestyle.
- We think that we can dabble in sin just a little bit, only to suddenly and unexpectedly get swallowed up in his trap.
- There were no thoughts of murder that night on the rooftop in Jerusalem.
- It's going to cost you more than you think. It's going to take you further than you want to go.
- You must not say evil things. You must not tell lies. Stop doing evil and do good. Look for peace.

THE CHALLENGE

I've got to make a choice about what I will do with my death sentence.

MY NOTES