

The Theft at Krispy Kreme

John Jefferson robbed a Krispy Kreme Doughnut store in Kingsport, Tennessee, in 1999 to support his drug addiction.

But he couldn't enjoy the dope he bought because he was plagued with guilt. Months later, even after moving to Kansas, the guilt remained. So Jefferson decided to confess.

Jefferson called Detective David Cole of the Kingsport Police Department and identified himself as the robber.

"I couldn't take it anymore," Jefferson said in an interview. "I was sick and tired of the way I was living. I didn't want to die in a crack house, and I didn't want to smoke crack anymore."

After sitting in jail a few months, Jefferson and his attorney worked out a deal with the state – plead guilty to the robbery and get six years in prison. He took the deal, but hoped all along he would get probation.

The judge, Phyllis Miller, "looked at my past history and said 'enough is enough.' "She sent me to prison, and it saved my life," Jefferson said.

Prison, he added, was the best thing for him. "That's where I started going to AA," which included righting all wrongs, he said. While prison was the "hardest thing I've ever done ... it was sweet, too, because I found God."

Upon his release, Jefferson tried several times to return to the Krispy Kreme store and repay the money he had stolen, but he kept turning around before he could get there. Finally, he called David Cole again and asked him to accompany him to the store.

Although he had stolen \$300, Jefferson returned \$400 to store management, who asked him to donate the money to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"I felt like a million bucks when I walked out of that place," Jefferson said.

Confession is a critical component of forgiveness and reconciliation.

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy (Proverbs 28:13 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

