

The Wrecked Pickup Truck

In *Decision* magazine, Mark Strand tells of an experience that occurred following his first year of college.

His dad and mom had left for vacation, and Mark wrecked their pickup truck, crumpling the passenger-side door. Returning home, he parked the truck.

When his dad returned home and saw the damage, Mark acted surprised and denied any knowledge of the incident. Mr. Strand then asked the hired man who worked on their farm about it, and to Mark's delight, the man suggested he was responsible. He had heard a loud noise while passing the truck with the wings of the cultivator up, and he assumed he had caused the damage.

The weeks that followed were torturous as Mark struggled with his guilty conscience. He repeatedly considered telling the truth, but was afraid. Finally, one day he impulsively blurted it out: "Dad, there's something I need to tell you."

"Yes?" his dad asked.

"You know that pickup door?" said Mark. "I was the one who did it."

Mark said his father looked at him. Mark looked back at him. For the first time in weeks, Mark was able to look his father in the eyes as the topic was broached. To his utter disbelief, his dad calmly replied, "I know."

Silent seconds, which seemed like hours, passed.

Then his dad said, "Let's go eat." He put his arm around Mark's shoulder, and they walked to the house, not saying another word about it. Not then, not ever.

The story is instructive for us.

You and I have a Father with more love and forgiveness than Mark Strand's dad. If only we would confess our sin.

Let's make it personal: Are you carrying a heavy burden of guilt over something you did that you shouldn't have done? Or maybe it's a matter of omission rather than commission, and it still troubles you. Perhaps there is someone *you* need to forgive, making it right with a co-worker, a friend or a family member.

There's no greater feeling in the world than knowing our sins have all been forgiven. And it happens when we confess our sins to our Father, ask His forgiveness and trust His Son as our Lord and Savior.

(more)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9 ESV).

That makes for joyous living.

– Beecher Hunter

