The Turning Point – Ricky's Greatest Mistake

David Banning · Proverbs 1 · Series: **Christian Living (Questions)**

INTRODUCTION

- I want to retell this story because not too long ago somebody made a request that I go back and tell this story again and consider some of its applications in our lives.
- The story I want to tell you is set in the small East Texas town of Haslum.
- It's the kind of place where people go to bed at night and they don't worry about whether or not the doors are locked or not.

1 Carl Rinkel Brutally Murdered in Haslum

- He found him at his home where the night before he had been brutally murdered.
- You can imagine in a little town like Haslum that story just captured everyone's attention immediately.
- Sadly, this kind of thing, innocent people being brutally murdered, that's all too common in our culture.

2 A Request to Go See Him on Death Row

- Huntsville is the seat of the Texas prison system.
- My son was just convicted a few weeks back of capital murder in Shelby County.
- I was just hoping that you'd go see him. And that you'd try to talk to him and study with him and help him get his life straightened out.
- The truth was I was scared to death.

3 Ricky Wasn't What I Anticipated

- Ricky wasn't at all what I anticipated when I went to see him for that first time.
- He just didn't fit any of my preconceived ideas.
- It was the commonality that I felt with him that made his story disturbing.
- He wasn't raised all that different from the way that I was, and I suspect the way many of you were raised, too.

4 Raised in the Home of Christians

- He was raised in the home of Christians. His mom and dad were dedicated disciples of Jesus.
- They went to church. They loved the Lord. They taught him to love the Lord.
- His daddy would do the preaching and he would lead the singing.

5 Starts Out So Right, Ends Up So Very Wrong

- How does somebody who starts out so right end up so very wrong?
- I made the choice to run with the wrong crowd. He said, I just chose the wrong people as my friends. That's where my life started going wrong.
- In time the pressure just became too much, and he gave in to it.
- I didn't like someone telling me how to run my life. But he says, as I look back on it, my friends were running my life.

6 The Cycle of His Life

- He abused every kind of drug. He was sexually immoral. He couldn't keep a job. He was in and out of debt.
- When he had a little bit stockpiled, what he'd do is he'd quit his job and he'd go party.
- For much of the ten years that were his twenties, that's how he lived his life. Till the spring of 1987.

MY NOTES