

Part of being a Christian and working towards being a perfect, Christ-like person is recognizing that you're *not* a perfect person all the time. That song, *Take You Back* talks about God's love for us, despite the fact that we all screw up- I know I do.

I took about a 1300-mile round trip road trip over spring break a couple weeks ago with just myself and my iPod. I got to see a lot of my friends on the way and when I got there, and I got to check out a school I'm interested in; but the most meaningful part to me was getting to go to a couple of really special worship services and particularly having something like twenty-three hours spread out over the course of 4 days that I was just by myself in my car and had some long periods to just pray and talk to God- and to ask Him to take me back.

I'm not one of those people who necessarily hears Jesus talking directly in my ear. But I do find myself a lot of times in situations where I feel a *need* to do something, and I know it's God talking to me, directing me, particularly when I'd rather do my own thing and *not* listen to Him. And I *don't* always listen when He's directing me somewhere. You'd know that looking at the number of major changes and degree check sheets I've been through at two colleges and counting. But more than the obvious stuff like that, of where God is taking me in my life as a whole, I know I fall short of His glory in just the things I do and say, my activities and my attitudes.

And sometimes I get so caught up in what I want to do I forget to care what God wants. One of the biggest things I've made an effort to change about myself lately is how often, how long, and how meaningfully I pray. Probably everyone my age asks for mercy before their sociology exam or forgiveness when they're sneaking up the stairs at 3:30 in the morning. But I've found I'm more open to what I should be doing, on the small scale everyday and on the larger scale of where I'm going in general when I'm more open to God.

And for those times when I'm not, when I try to handle on my own everything the world throws at me, I've found that I can't. But I've found that whenever I'm ready to receive it, God's been offering his love and his strength all along. He takes me back no matter how long I've been gone or how far I've fallen.

So while you ask yourself tonight just how far you've traveled from God, knowingly or unknowingly, and by how much have you missed the target that Christ has

set for us, I ask if it matters. Will we let ourselves get caught up in all the things that go wrong? Or in doing our own thing? Or will we just let God do *His* thing, and take us back?