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### **Is It Really Worth It?**

It seems like every time we look in the news, we see something about drinking and driving. This is becoming more and more common in today's world. This is very dangerous because people are driving a car forty miles per hour while they're drunk. When something creeps out into the road, whether it be a person, animal, or another car, people can't react fast enough to stop their cars. Drinking and driving is extremely preventable, you just have to know that you aren't in a position to drive. If people were to stay responsible, drunk driving could be taken out of the world entirely.

I grew up with three older brothers, one of them, Evan, didn't make it all the way through high school. He had a tough time following rules growing up. He got into trouble a lot at school, he also left our house a few times and didn't come back for months. He wanted to do things his own way, and he made a lot of mistakes along the way. One night he crashed his truck into a fire hydrant while he was driving drunk. He had to call my dad at midnight and explain what he had done. He came home for a while and got all of his legal stuff taken care of, and he had to do what was told by the court. He couldn't drive for a year, and I really thought that this would straighten him out, because up to this point, he never followed the rules. I was wrong though, and around a year later he called my parents again in the middle of the night from the county

jail. He had to explain again what he had done, and the process started all over again. Since his second mistake, he has learned and he has become a better driver, so I think doing things the hard way made him realize that you can't drive like he was. However, if he had just followed the rules the entire time, he would've never had to pay fines, or pay for a lawyer.

My other brother Troy went down this same road about 3 years ago. He had been drinking at a friend's house that wasn't far away and when he woke up he thought he could make it home. He hit a frost heave and lost control of his truck, hit a snowbank, and rolled his truck three times. He was thrown from the driver's seat because he wasn't buckled, which actually saved his life because the driver's side was completely caved in. He had to go to the hospital and he had to go through all the legal issues that my other brother had to go through.

These are accidents that don't need to happen, if people know they have been drinking, don't drive. It really is that simple. Call a cab, or get a ride from a friend. You will save a lot of money from fines, and having to pay for a lawyer, and you just might save your life. My brothers have both told me that drinking and driving isn't worth it. They both had to pay a lot of money for their fines, and Troy had to buy a completely new truck because he totaled his. Evan's truck was my great uncle's truck before he died, and Evan ruined it because he was driving when he shouldn't have been. The truck was a gift to him when my uncle passed, but after all the damage to it, we had to sell it to someone who restored it for themselves.

It doesn't matter if your house is two minutes away, or you just have to get down the street, if you have been drinking, don't drive. A lot can happen in two minutes, all you need is to hit a patch of black ice, or take a turn too fast, and your whole life can be changed in an instant. You could also change the life of someone else if you hit them, and that could potentially destroy a family, and you would have to live with that for the rest of your life. Be safe, be smart, and make the right decision whenever you think about driving home after a night out, because it isn't worth it.