

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 15:17-24

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-661 SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME! – PART 3

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF MAN*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Value, Worth, Salvation, Forgiveness, Repentance

This Parable of The Prodigal Son,
is held as the most beloved parable of all parables.

I Think Because It Speaks To All of Us
from the atheist, to the religionist, to the Christian.

There's Not a Human Being Alive on Planet Earth
that has not, or is not, or shall not suffer from ramifications of wandering away
from God.

to the atheist I say;
you might try calming down and thinking for a moment...

to the religionist I say;
get over yourself and look to the Lord, you're not as right as you think...

and to the Christian I say;
Come back to the Lord and Be with Him Like Never Before...

I personally believe that
there are so many broken and weak and failing and wayward Christians in the
world today, that if they were to obey God, and come back home to Him – there
would not be enough churches big enough to hold them all.

The Parable of the Amazing Love of God

Luke 15:11-13

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. :12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that **falls to me.**" So he divided to them *his livelihood*. :13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered **all** together, **journeyed** to a far country, and there **wasted** his possessions with **prodigal** living.

1.) All has been provided for v.11-12

2.) Mercy has been extended v.13a

3.) Conviction has been upon you v.13b

Luke 15:14-16

But **when** he had **spent all**, there arose a **severe famine** in that land, and he began to be in **want**. :15 Then he went and **joined himself** to a **citizen** of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. :16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, - for no one gave **him anything**.

1.) Challenging times will come to you v.14

2.) This world has nothing on you v.15

3.) You're no longer of this world v.16

And Our Text Before Us This Day...

Luke 15:17-24

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! :18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, :19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' :20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. :21 And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' :22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. :23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; :24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

And they began to be merry.

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

1.) Hope awakens

v.17-19

1a.) Because all was not lost

v.17a

“But when he **came** to himself, he said...

This is a Wonderful Thing;
this suggests that up until now, he had not been himself.

there is, what I will call, a “form of insanity”
that deranges the man or woman who embraces sin.

he no longer thinks clearly. he begins to allow things into his life.
he makes foolish decisions...

“Stupid Pills”

BUT ALL WAS NOT LOST!

This “Coming to Himself”

implies that he came back to his right mind. to think again.

Satan’s goal is to keep you dumb and uninformed.

cults and communism are Satan’s greatest tools for this.

it’s the basis of every godless worldview.
I’m an animal. I have no one to answer to. it’s the survival of the fittest.

Young Man - Sir,

It’s Time for You to Come to Yourself.

BUT ALL WAS NOT LOST!

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you,
for you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? :2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin **live any longer in it?**

HOPE AWAKENS

1b.) When true repentance stirs v.17b-18

“He said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! :18 I will arise and I will go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

The Word “Repentance” or “Repent”

is not used here for a very important reason and that reason is that the definition of “Repentance” or “Repent” is lived out in the parable!

When we’re resisting and rebelling and

arguing with the Lord,

then there can be no true repentance of heart and thus no forgiveness of sin.

The Opposite of Repentance is **Self-Justification** Repentance Requires a Trinity (3) of Elements:

Verse 18

I will arise and I will go to my father, and I will say to him,
“Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

It must involve the “**Will**” = motive = “I will arise”

It must involve the “**Mind**” = decision = “I will go”

It must involve the “**Emotions**” = action = “I will say”

HOPE AWAKENS WHEN WE HAVE AN ANSWER

Acts 11:18

When the people heard these things (*what Jesus had done for them*) they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles **repentance** unto (*which leads to*) life.”

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...

Maybe You've Forgotten That Wayward Christian!

maybe you've forgotten the **benefits** of **salvation**
maybe you've forgotten the **benefits** of the **cross**
maybe you've forgotten the **benefits** of the **resurrection**
maybe you've forgotten the **benefits** of being His **right now**

Matthew 28:20b

...behold, **I am with you** always, even to the end of the of the world."

HOPE AWAKENS

1c.) Now that humility is here v.19

and **I am no longer worthy** to be called your son.
Make me like one of your hired servants."

What The Son Now Realizes, Has Always Been True.

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation,

The Awakening of the "Christian" Heart – The "God" Heart within Us.

Ezekiel 36:27

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep
My judgments and do *them*.

Romans 7:18

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;

1.) Hope awakens v.17-19

2.) Compassion comes v.20-21

2a.) When we turn back to Him v.20a

"And he **arose** and **came** to his father...

This is the Break Point – The “Must Happen” Point

There Are “Ways” and “When’s” to Compassion

one is when you see someone suffer or in danger.
the other is when a man is in fear of drowning.

with the sufferer – you rush in to help

the drowning man – you wait...

Turn Back!

because listen, you need to turn back home, to get back home!

Romans 2:4

Do not despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to **repentance**?

COMPASSION COMES

2b.) When we draw near to Him v.20

But when he was still a great way off,
(1) his father **saw** him (2) and had **compassion**, and
(3) **ran** and (4) **fell on his neck** and (5) **kissed** him.

The Father “Saw” from a “Great Distance”

how could the father recognize his son being so far away?

The Boy was filthy. clothes torn and stinkin’ like a pig.
but he knew his boy’s walk, the way he carried his head and moved his arms

This Presupposes Something Powerful.

that is, that the Father was Waiting, Watching, Willing.

Psalm 73:28

But it is good for me to **draw near** to God;

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will **draw near** to you.

Jeremiah 29:12-14a

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. **:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. :14a I will be found by you, says the LORD,**

All of This Speaks of Affirmation (the power, place and position that a father holds)

sons and daughters long for the affirmation of their fathers.

(1) his father **saw** him

sons and daughters are always looking to see if dad is watching

(2) and had **compassion**,

there is a form of tenderness that can only come from a father

and (3) **ran** and

there is nothing too sacred to mask real love

(4) **fell on his neck**

a bold and unashamed display of humility, emotion

and (5) **kissed** him.

an expression of affirmation and welcome

there's an affirmation that comes upon a child;
by what a father **sees**

there's an affirmation that comes upon a child;
by what a father **feels**

there's an affirmation that comes upon a child;
by what a father **does**

there's an affirmation that comes upon a child;
by what a father **expresses**

there's an affirmation that comes upon a child;
by what a father **allows**

there's an affirmation that comes upon a child;
by what a father **says**

The Bible is the Book on Affirmation

Psalm 139:1-18

O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. :2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. :3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. :4 For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. :5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. :6 *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it. :7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? :8 If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. :9 *If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, :10 Even there Your hand shall lead me And Your right hand shall hold me. :11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; :12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*. :13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. :14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. :15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. :16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them. :17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! :18 *If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

It's Hard for Us to Imagine the Lord

waiting and watching and be willing after we have offended Him.

COMPASSION COMES

2c.) When we make confession to Him v.21

And the son said to him,
"Father, I have sinned" against (1) heaven and (2) in your sight,
and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

What he had said to himself in verse 18,
is the **same thing** he says in verse 21...

Confession / oJmologe÷w homologeo, hom-ol-og-eh'-o

Ek-Homologeo

To Say The Same Word – To Agree with God.
To Say What God Says About Any Given Thing.

**Example, Do You Agree With What God the Father
Says About God the Son?**

1 John 4:15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Leviticus 5:5

“And it shall be, when he is guilty in any of these matters,
that he shall confess that he has sinned **in that thing**;

A Word of Advice Here:

“Let the circle of the Confession, be within the circle of the Sin”

Matthew 18:15

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell
him his fault between you and him alone.

This Will Eliminate **Gossip** and Character **Assassination** from Your Lips.

Application Point Here

His situation turned sour and his hardships began to bring him to his senses.

Suffering for Doing Wrong is a Very, Very Good Thing.

Mom, Dad

as painful as it is to see your wayward son or daughter hurting because of their rebellion against
heaven and you – let God work it out in their lives!

Mark Twain Said;

“The Older I Get, The Smarter My Parents Become”

**“HIS PAINFUL SITUATION BEGAN TO CAUSE HIM TO SEE
HIS FATHER IN HIS TRUE LIGHT”**

He Made Confession

Luke 12:32

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom of God.

Why? - because we’re prone to Fear

Matthew 6:25-26

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? **:26** Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Why - because we’re prone to Worry

CHRISTIAN, COME HOME!

3.) Blessings return

v.22-24

:22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. **:23** And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; **:24** for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Look @ verse 21 carefully...

Verse 21-22

:21 And the son said to him,
“Father, I have sinned” against heaven and in your sight, and
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **:22** “But the father said...

THE FATHER NEVER LET HIM FINISH HIS CONFESSION

BLESSINGS RETURN

3a.) But we're so undeserving

v.22a

:22 "But the father said to his servants,
'Bring out **the best robe** and put *it* on him,

"THE BEST ROBE"

was the father's robe. In that world the robe is big deal.

Genesis 37:3

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age. Also he made him a robe of *many* colors.

Genesis 41:41

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." :42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

I Know - It Makes No Sense.

This Parable Drives The Legalist Nuts
(How can evil be rewarded? - it's not being rewarded, grace
and mercy is being applied)

BLESSINGS RETURN

3b.) But we're so unworthy

v.22b-23a

and he said "put a **ring** on his hand and **sandals** on *his* feet.
:23 And bring the **fatted calf** here and kill *it*,

"THE RING"

the ring speaks of being higher, of sonship and authority

"THE SANDALS"

the sandals speak of freedom – no slave was allowed sandals

“THE FATTED CALF”

the sacrifice speaks of the ultimate value and worth

Excuse Me - Hello!

everything the son was seeking out in the world
was given to him freely back at home!

Now at Home - Everything Tasted Better,

Sounded Better, Felt Better because the heart and mind were cleared.

Psalm 103:10-13

he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. :11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; :12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. :13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

BLESSINGS RETURN

3c.) But we're so loved

v.23b-24

:23b and let us eat and be merry; :24 for this my son **was dead** and is alive again; he **was lost** and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Listen My Friend;

“Jesus didn’t die to make bad men good. He died to make dead men live”

1 Timothy 5:6

(regarding a life lived for sin) “For she who lives in pleasure is dead while she yet lives”

John 11:25-26

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. :26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. (*a spiritual death*) Do you believe this?”

John 5:24

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

O.K. Church, We're on Final Approach Here...

Verse 22a

:22 “But the father **said to his servants**,
the father “publicly” acknowledges his son.

there will come a day when God will acknowledge
all of us who have placed our trust in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:32-33

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. **:33** But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love **The Lord** suffers long *and* is kind; Love **The Lord** does not envy; Love **The Lord** does not parade Himself, He is not puffed up; **:5** does not behave rudely, does not seek His own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **:6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **:7** He bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **:8** Love **The Lord** never fails.

**There's an old story that comes out of central Mexico,
it's been told 1,000 times for good reason...**

A father and a son had been separated for years because of a family quarrel. as time passed the father tried one more time to reach out to his son but had lost all contact with him. so he did the last thing he could do. he ran an ad in the local papers in all the surrounding villages hoping that his wayward son would somehow see it. That simple little ad said;

**“Pablo, All Has Been Forgiven, Please Come Back Home.
If You're Willing, Meet Me Next Sunday Afternoon at the Plaza. Love, Your Papa”**

Well, not only did Pablo show up, but on that Sunday, in that plaza,
over 100 sons named “Pablo” showed hoping to be forgiven by their fathers!
we'll I'm going to ask you on this Sunday to show up.

End of Study