

LPATH TEACHING

July 10, 2022

Theme: The Parables of Jesus (Stories for All People)

Topic: **The Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:25-32)**

INTRODUCTION

- Everybody knows the story of the prodigal son, but that's just one third of it.
- It's about a prodigal son, a loving father, and a self-righteous son.
- It is the story of a father who compassionately loves his two sons.
- Unfortunately, his two sons do not love him. They are both rebels.
- Neither of them has any relationship with him in a personal sense.
- They dishonor him and they do it publicly.
- The younger son is openly and outwardly immoral and rebellious
- The older one is inwardly immoral and rebellious, but outwardly conforms.
- But the one who appeared to obey and honor his father outwardly ends up unreconciled.
- The parable of a father and two sons is a parable that contains all the rich elements of salvation.
- It deals with the issue of sin, freedom, disgrace, shame, desperation, repentance, faith, atonement, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, sonship, and blessing.
- It's a story about the mercy of God, the compassion of God, the love and forgiveness of God, who finds His joy when one sinner repents. God delights in saving sinners.

LESSON

A. The Deceptive Appearance of a Counterfeit Salvation (vv. 25-27)

(Ang Mapanlinlang na Pagpapakita ng Huwad na Kaligtasan)

²⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

- The older son's reaction is unexpected. First, he has no interest in the well-being of his brother.
- He shows up on the outside. He was not part of the celebration which indicates that he had no relationship to the father and to his brother.
- It symbolizes the religious people in the house of God.
- They make a public display of affection for God.
- They go to church, moral on the public front, they are outwardly good.
- But the sad thing is **they have no relationship to God.**
- **They have no concern for the honor of God.**
- **They didn't know God. They didn't know the heart of God.**

- **They have no understanding of the joy of God. They have no interest in the joy of God.**
- **They have no interest in the recovery or restoration of lost sinners.**
- **They have no joy for the salvation of others. They have no understanding of grace.**
- These type of Christians are not happy when God succeeds.
- These type of people are not happy when people succeed.
- 2 Tim. 3:5, *"having a form of godliness but denying its power, have nothing to do with such people."*

B. The Defective Obedience of a Counterfeit Salvation (vv. 28-29)

(Ang Depektong Pagsunod ng Huwad na Kaligtasan)

²⁸*"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.*

- The reaction of the older brother is so important, *"he became angry."*
- Who are always angry in the Bible? The Pharisees.
- They consistently were angry about Jesus associating with sinners, embracing sinners, and forgiving sinners.
- Anger is very attitude that the Pharisees showed in chapter 5 when Jesus ate meals with the outcasts and sinful people.
- Anger is the same attitude they had in chapter 19 when Jesus went to be the guest of Zacchaeus.
- Being angry always, especially when the honor of God is displayed, is a pharisaic attitude.
- Being envious or jealous when other's ministry is succeeding is a pharisaic attitude.
- They have no understanding of how heaven rejoiced in the salvation of sinners.
- **Always angry because they don't believe in grace, they don't believe in forgiveness, they don't believe in reconciliation.**
- Verse 28 says, *"So his father went out and pleaded with him."*
- Here we see God as the initiator again. Here we see God in Christ as the Seeker again.
- The father came down out of his house and ran right down to the middle of town for all to see, bearing the scorn and the shame of the viewing public.
- It was an embarrassing act for a father, yet he did it because he loves his son.
- His son is on the outside and he's not going to come in. (Pa-importante, pa-VIP, feeling entitled)
- The older son is more rebellious than the younger one. It is a blatant insult.
- It is an utter disregard for the father's honor, for the father's joy.
- Instead of the father ordering him to be beaten and locked in a room, the insulted, dishonored father comes out and starts begging him.
- Verse 29 - *"But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends."*

- He addressed his father with "Look" unlike the prodigal son who said, "Father, father,"
- You don't address your father, "Look..." There's no title. There's no respect.
- *'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.'*
- He uses slave language, doulos. He has slave mentality.
- *"For so many years I have been your slave,"* means he was never a son, no sonship, no relationship.
- There are Christians in the church, matatagal na sila, pero walang Father-son relationship with God.
- They don't disciple, gusto nila sila ang laging dinidisciple, laging pinafollow-up, laging kinukumusta.
- They see themselves as entitled individuals, and that the church revolves around them.
- That the church exists for them. Na kapag nawala sila sa church, mawawala din ang church.
- Well, Jesus says, "I will build my church." 'My' - si Hesus ang may-ari ng church.
- **Throughout the years he was in the house of his father, It's all nothing but slavery to him.**
- Then he said *"I never disobeyed your orders"* - the image of a **self-righteous** person.
- It sounds exactly like the rich, young ruler in Luke 18.
- He lives with the illusion that he has never ever neglected a command that his father had given him.
- This is the amazing defective obedience of a counterfeit salvation, " the **self-deception** of "I'm perfect and you're not."
- He was angry, bitter, resentful, selfish, jealous, envious, full of pride, loveless self-righteous, hypocrite.
- **Yet he sees himself still perfect and needs no repentance. How about that?**

C. The Destructive Experience of a Counterfeit Salvation (vv. 30-32)

(Ang Mapangwasak na Karanasan ng Isang Huwad na Kaligtasan)

³⁰*But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!* ³¹*"My son," the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.* ³²*But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."*

- The older son is saying, "Father you are unfair. I've been the worker and I don't even get a goat."
- The younger son has done nothing for you and he gets the fattened calf.
- This is not fair. This is not equitable. This is not just. This is not righteous. Father you are wrong.
- Two things the son was implying:
 - *"Father, I don't need to ask you for forgiveness. I haven't done anything. But I'll tell you something, you need to ask me for forgiveness for what you've done."*
 - He's accusing the father of favoritism, and he was pointing out the fact that if ever he will have a celebration, it's not going to include his brother and it's not going to include his father.
- He lives in a completely different world. He has a completely different group of friends.
- He's at home but he has no relationship to the family. Marami sa church ang churchgoer lang.

- All his friends are outside the family. He is enjoying the company of those who think the way he thinks.
- His friends are in the world, not in the church.
- Sometimes, it's easier to be patient with prodigals than it is with self-righteous Christians.
- A truly saved person always repent, always reconciled and has a loving relationship with God.

CONCLUSION

- The parable of the older son has no ending if you will notice on your Bible.
- The story stops in verse 32. There is no ending unlike the first son. What did the older son do?
- We want to know if he comes in, humbled himself, forgiven and reconciled to his father.
- If I would write a happy ending, it's like this, *"And the older son fell on his knees, repented of his pride and selfishness. Then the father embraced and kissed him, took him in and seated him at his table by his brother and all rejoiced in the sons who had been reconciled to their loving father."*
- But that is not the case. Who wrote the end? The Pharisees wrote the end. Here's the end they wrote. *"And the older son, being outraged at his father, picked up a piece of wood and beat him to death in front of everyone."*
- That's the ending they wrote. That's the cross.
- They killed the Son of Man. They nailed the Son of Man to the cross.
- And when we are not serious with our relationship with God, when all we know about Christianity is give me give me. When we have no interest in the desires of God and did not make it our own desires.
- When we sin openly like the younger son or we hide our sins like the older son.
- We are nailing Jesus again and again on the cross.
- Hebrews 6:4-6, *"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is a person who repents, but keeps going back into sin, truly repentant? How can we help such a person?
- Where's the balance between "bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33) and spending time with non-Christians?
- Jesus maintained His holiness and yet sinners seemed comfortable in His presence. How can we do the same?