

## Repenting of Sin and Righteousness

### The Story of Two Lost Sons

Mark Bickel – Crossroads Mar. 15, 2009

#### The Prodigal Sons – Luke 15:1-32

- Someone tell story of Prodigal Son
- Beautiful story ... but offensive at time
- also, story of 2 sons, not one
- need context...
- **READ passage**
- Note: to Pharisees
- Tell Jewish version (disown)

#### The “Rebellious” Son: - younger son

##### “Finding Oneself”

- Father **giving of life**... sell 1/3 land, identity
- Son goes **in search of self** ... student / young adult
- party, drugs, women, alcohol, friends, profession, ...
- **give up religion, moral, family** ... find self
- end up **loosing everything, including self!**

##### “Losing Oneself”

- Another path I have seen: **Waking up lost**
- **example: me curse in high school**
- **ex. – smoking or drinking a little** – addicted, online bikini photos become porn, wake up one morning in bed with boyfriend, small fraud lead to Bernie Madoff...
- Satan tempts some to rebel, others to simply get a little closer to cliff – Like **Willie E. Cayootee**, wake up falling!
- Then **Satan accuses** – guilt, leading to either hopelessness and becoming full 1<sup>st</sup> son, or try to make up for, becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> son

#### The “Righteous” Son: - older son

##### “Saving Oneself”

- “does **all right**”. “work hard” – “righteous” son
- “deserves” party – **God owes me**
- No joy, instead leads to **bitterness and anger**
- In the end he also **rejects father, dishonors him**
- **same goals:** doing righteousness for self-gain – wants inheritance

- really mad at bother, not only gets party, but party on his dime, for all should have been his!
- One wants to break free of God wants to control God
- Both looking for **salvation** – one in the world, the other in self!

#### Jesus’ Radical View of Lostness and Sin:

- ex.: Elizabeth Elliot’s “**carrying stones for Jesus**”
- Context: **Pharisees question** about eat with sinners
- Jesus upset view of sinner: both sons lost
- therefore **sin is not just unrighteousness, but righteousness!**
- Pharisees and Sinners in same boat! Just as Lost!

#### Application to Us:

##### - Admitting you are Lost

- Note **other 2 stories** – leave ‘unlost’ to find the ‘lost’
- key to being found is to be lost .. salvation only comes as we see we are lost
- many ‘good from childhood’ can not see self as sinner, Jesus here redefines sin so it fits us all!
- **example: crossroads!** – I have heard tales and been around clear, obvious sinners, that ma embarrass some people ... as well as the self-righteous... I am glad this is a place for both
- One application: we need to **invite in both types of lost people!**

##### - Repenting of “Rebellion” and “Righteousness”

- 1<sup>st</sup> son crashed and burned, saw lostness, and returned
- notice 2<sup>nd</sup> son also given chance to return
- **Jesus not slamming Pharisees, but rather inviting them** into the party, they too can eat with him, but have to join the ‘sinners’ -
- Dave’s definition of **repent** last week – **turn 180%** - from rebellion and from religious self-righteousness! – also **BFC def.**

##### - Receiving Christ’s Forgiveness & Power to Truly Change

- **While we were yet sinners Christ died for us! (Rom, 5:6-11)**
- Miller: **Cheer up, your worse than you think you are!**
- The hope of the gospel is that God can change even the worst, most righteous person!
- “**And Can It Be**”
- \*\* More on what Christ does as the true elder brother and on the party God the Father throws for us **next week!** \*\*

**13-1 Repentance** unto life is a gift of God and a voluntary act of man, accomplished by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Repentance consists in a knowledge of sin, a sense of guilt and corruption that results in the confession and forsaking of sin and a turning to God that results in loving, obedient service.

**14-1 Regeneration**, or the New Birth, is an instantaneous creative act of God through the agency of the Holy Spirit, whereby divine life is imparted to those dead in sin, making them members of the family of God.

### **Romans 5:6-11**

**6**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7**Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. **8**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**9**Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! **10**For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **11**Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain—  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: th'Immortal dies:  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above  
So free, so infinite His grace—  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me!

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

Still the small inward voice I hear,  
That whispers all my sins forgiven;  
Still the atoning blood is near,  
That quenched the wrath of hostile Heaven.  
I feel the life His wounds impart;  
I feel the Savior in my heart.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.