

A FATHER THAT WOULD NOT GIVE UP

The parable of the Prodigal Son is an inspirational story to many of us, who never knew our fathers. It gives us a feeling of security desiring deeply in our soul a father such as this one from the parable our Lord YAHSHUA told to the disciples. The love of this father covers the story with hope. Hope not seen through the earthly fathers today for their lack of commitment to their children. The perfect love expressed in this story, gives us the certainty that this Father is no one else but our heavenly Father. Just as the young son of the parable, we all have left Him for the love of the world. "Our heavenly Father is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy and loving kindness; He will not always chide or be contending, neither will He keep His anger forever or hold a grudge; He has not dealt with us after our iniquities; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103: 8-12) The prohibited fruit eaten by our forefathers represent the world and its temptations. Our Creator gave instructions how to live, but we fell into the world's temptation, ignoring His instructions. In spite of it, He provided a plan of redemption to save us from His judgment.

As the young man of the story, little do we know what waits for us at the end of our adventure into the world's life style. Our heavenly Father knowing all, never gives up on us. He still waits for those who continue in the world. Even though having all we need, we find it not to be enough to satisfy our fleshly desires. We want more having to do with all that is in the world- the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. These do not come from the father, but are from the world (I John 2:16). The young man from the story lived to satisfy the flesh. He followed his desires without measuring the consequences they brought him. He left home with a packet full of money, hoping to satisfy his dreams. Not too long, he was surrendered with friends to waste his inheritance with him; life was fun for a while until all was gone, and his friends with it. Realizing where he had arrived to, he had a change of heart. He had been shaken up from his sleep to the reality, when he found himself sharing pigs' food, due to a famine in the land. That distant land was no longer a place he longed for, to satisfy his fleshly desires, but a place that had nothing to offer him, but hogs' food. Submerged in that reality, he made a decision that changed his life. He realized that the hog's carob pods he was feeding self were not what he intended and purposed for his life. Then he came to himself and said, "How many hired servants of my father have enough food, but I am perishing here of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to Him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants" (Luke 15:11-24).

The father who never gave up on his son, as a matter of fact, while he was still a long way off, saw him and was moved with pity and tenderness and he ran and embraced and kissed him (vs.20). There was no discussion in that atmosphere, there was no why. Only forgiveness with the reward of receiving him back as his son with all its privileges. He was dressed with the best robe, and given him a ring, and sandals; they celebrated his return with the [wheat-fattened calf]. Because, he said, this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to revel and feast and make merry (vs. 22-24). YAHSHUA said, even so, I tell you,

there is joy among and in the presence of the angels of God over one wicked person who repents. (Luke 15:10).

The father of this parable is a picture of God reaching out to the lost, wicked world, to save it from eternal condemnation while submerged in its corruption, attracting many to hell. In love that compelled Him to give up His Son as a ransom for men, YAHSHUA stood condemned during those days, holding the sins of the world as if they were His, although sinless and without blame, for it was the will of the Lord to bruise Him, as He has put Him to grief and made Him sick (Isa. 53:10). By oppression and judgment, He was taken away; He was oppressed, He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not his mouth (Isa. 53:7,8). The extent of His sufferings can never be measured in any way, for the immensity of sins that He carried was that of the entire world. As a matter of fact, While the world was crucifying Him, He was loving and forgiving it and submitting to its hatred for Him. Our heavenly Father's sacrifice was marked on each of us forever in the person of His Holy Spirit, guaranteed our salvation by sealing us with His seal guaranteeing our inheritance. In anticipation of its possession to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1). There is no sin so great that He can't forgive and erase it forever. His Word says, As far as the east is from, the west, so far has He removed our transgression from us; as a father loves and pities his children, so the Lord loves and pities those who fear Him (Ps. 103:12-13). Who shall ever separate us from Christ's love? Shall suffering and affliction and tribulation? Or calamity and distress? Or persecution or hunger or destitution or peril or sword?... For I am persuaded beyond doubt that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ YAHSHUA our Lord (Rom. 8).

While the prodigal son wandered the world of sin, wasting all he had, his father never lost focus of him. His love grew deeper every day, while he waited for his return. Even though there was a physical separation between the two for a while, they were connected by the love for each other. Knowing that he had a father, his son's heart earned for him in repentance of heart, acknowledging his behavior as sinful toward heaven and his father, I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants. (Luke 15:18-19). The Word of God says [The sacrifice acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, such O God, You will not despise (Ps. 51:17). A penitent heart opens the way to God in order for us to be forgiven. When we were yet in the world, submerged in sin, separated from the holiness of God, "For all have sinned and are separated from the glory of God", YAHSHUA came down and offered His life as a ransom to save us. While we were yet in weakness, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly; therefore, since we are now justified by Christ's blood, how much more certain we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God (Rom. 5). There is now no more condemnation for those who are in Christ YAHSHUA (Rom. 1:1). The prodigal son was forever received as son and given the privilege of son, dressed in the robe of righteousness, a ring that sealed him as their son, a new sandal. His life was completely transformed from inside and out. No more feeding on hogs' food, no more smelling like one. He was now forgiven and

justified and received as son. He was now a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come! (II Cor. 5:17).

My friend, this parable illustrates God's eternal love for you, no matter where you are; no matter what you are doing. All that will take for you to become a child of God is to return to Him with a contrite heart and He will forgive you; He will dress you in His righteousness, you will be called a child of God and Peace that passes all understanding will be in your heart with certainty, knowing that He will never leave nor forsake you, to the end of time, when eternity embraces you.