

DIALOGUE ON THE PRODIGAL SON
for September 15, 2019 (back to church Sunday)

- Presider: Together let us listen to God's word.
- Narrator: When Jesus told the story, He told of a rich man who had two sons: but it could have been a story about any of us and our Father ...
- Presider: One day, one of the sons got angry...
- Together: I don't get it! You pick at me all the time. You don't let me do the things I want to do. You treat me like I'm just a kid.
- Adult: But, son, I . . .
- Together: (interrupting) NO. Give me the money you have been saving for me. I want out of here. Don't try to talk me out of it.
- Adult: (Sadly) All right, but . . . you haven't really thought this through, have you? What about college? *Early adulthood can be so selfish, thinking so much about oneself, one's own pleasures. We all go through it, some better than others!*
- Together: Never mind pretending to feel bad; just give me my inheritance now, that legacy of yours, and let me go now. I'm tired of all your rules.
- Narrator: So the father let his son go. And the son, feeling free at last, took off with no plans and was happy because he didn't have to stay home anymore.
He felt 'Independent' and on top of the world - - - Some would say he had the world by the fanny - - - but we all know, you can't get anywhere without some training, some education, some guidance and mentoring.
- Presider: The son took off, free at last or so he thought. He liked to feel like a big shot, liked that he impressed others, with his stuff, his wardrobe, being in style (having the right threads), eating at the best places, even picking up the tab for others once in a while. He was wanting everyone to like him. He was really into IMPRESSION MANAGEMENT that younger son.
- Narrator: He felt the freedom and he never gave thought to his father. Youth,

how long does it last? ? ?

But, his father thinks of him. Everyday he spends a lot of time looking out the window. He always reads the papers and fb posts very carefully just to see if THAT son has posted anything, or to see if his son made good of his inheritance and/or IF anything had happened to him.

Presider: After what seemed like a very long time, that youngest son ran out of money. He was so busy having a good time that he hadn't thought about getting a job or saving any money for a rainy day. He just spent all that he had and maybe some even took advantage of his generosity/stupidity in this case.

Together: I can't understand where all the money went!
It seemed like so much and now, I am broke.
I better find myself another job! I can't even buy food at present. I'm such a jerk.

But who will hire me? I burned the bridges behind me, I didn't stick with anything long enough, go to college. I am just a loser - - - I really put myself in a bind. I don't even have a place to eat and sleep - - -

Maybe I can find an organization to feed me and put me up a week at a time. Look at me, I'm like so many who screw up; thinking I was so smart and now I am at the mercy of others to even eat.

Narrator: The season changes!

Together: It's cold, I'm hungry. My fancy wardrobe and Nike shoes are torn and tattered. I'm a mess, I'm homesick, even miss my Dad and the rest of the family. What should I do?

Do I dare think Dad is watching for me, wondering about me, I was so rude! Do I dare go back to my father?

Can I go back? Will he hate me? Does he care anymore?

Dad can't just forget about me. He loves me. Do I dare Go Back?

Presider: That youngest son started home. He walked, he caught a ride once in a while, he was cold and hungry. As he got closer to 'home'

he was so embarrassed. He didn't know how he would face his Dad.

Together: I wouldn't blame him if he said "get out". But if I just apologize maybe that will work. I could admit how selfish I was, how I now know I messed up.

Adult: Son! Son! Is that really you?

Together: Dad, I've been so selfish, I caused so much embarrassment to the family.

Adult: No matter, I'm just so glad you're home and you are safe.

Together: But, aren't you mad at me? I blew it all away. I am broke. I thought I was so important and that I could buy friendship. I never thought of you and home and responsibility.

Adult: But you were always on my mind.

Narrator: That is the story of the runaway younger son.

Presider: No, it's the story of the forgiving Dad. It is a good story for all to think about, because we should be like the forgiving Dad who forgave that selfish son. He didn't even throw it up in his face saying I told you so.

God is like that with us: God keeps on loving us when we are selfish, when we take advantage of other's and hurt them.

Narrator: But what about the other son?

Presider: Hey, what's going on here? A party? Why?
My brother has decided to come home, and broke, and there will be a party. You've got to be kidding me!
Between him and Dad, I don't know who the biggest loser is!

I've been here all this time; I did everything he asked. Is there a party for me and my friends? NO!

Adult: You're correct. You have been here, but can't you see how important he too is to the family? Can't you be more accepting? What's with the 'green eyed monster'? Can't I love you both?

We are one of the three at different times in our life. As a parent we forgive over and over, as a young adult and into early adulthood we are foolish and selfish, and in later adulthood we hold grudges, we know who we don't want to be near. At an early stage we are all about me, my vs. we and our. It would seem that at one stage of adulthood it is all about me and my pleasures. And in the later stage we tend to kill people with our bitterness. If only we could remember:

*Good, better, best,
May we never rest,
Till our good is better,
and our better - Best.*

All: And this is the “Good News” of our Lord.