

Wall of Prayer

April 29, 2013



Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

In Luke 15, Jesus tells of the overwhelming love of God the Father who gave His only Son that none should perish, but that all would have eternal life. As the religious leaders grumbled that He “receives sinners and eats with them,” Jesus illustrated the value of each and every life through the parable of the lost sheep, the parable of the lost coin and finally the parable of the lost son.

Given the definition of “prodigal” as “reckless, extravagant, wasteful of resources,” the story of the “Prodigal Son” could rightly be called the “Prodigal Father.”¹ What reckless and extravagant love would welcome home a rebellious son who had essentially said “I wish you were dead or incapacitated so that I may have my share of your estate now?” And having been given “his share” spent every penny on wild living. We are all familiar with the scenario. The “younger” son (Greek.: “*neo*” to move, agitate, one who moves briskly- a young man, because of activity and vigor or of the unsettled attitude of that age of life,) comes to his senses when he finds himself in the lowest station possible for a Jew, clinging to a Gentile for life and craving the pods he is feeding to the pigs. He longs for the provision of his generous father if only through employment as a slave and rehearses his plea for forgiveness as he heads home. But, waiting day in and day out for the return of his “lost” son, the father seeing him from a distance, runs to meet him. Hugging and kissing him all the way home, the father only allows the confession, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you...” before he cuts off the son’s speech and calls for a robe of honor, a family ring and sandals for these wayward feet. The fattened calf was slain, the entertainers were called in and the feast began. The celebration was almost complete.

Sadly, the “older” son (Greek.: “*presbuterous*”- ambassador, elder, represents the people...not the more common “*presbus*” which means “older”) was having nothing to do with a party celebrating the return of the one who took a portion of his estate and wasted all of it on debauchery. Once again the loving father goes out to meet a son...to comfort him; to plead with him to come to the feast; to celebrate the life of the brother who once was lost, but now is found. The “elder” brother indignantly reminded the father that he had been in bondage, obediently working for the father all along. This brother reduced his relationship with his father to one of works; only financial gain and rewards. He had no heart for his father’s wishes or desires; he had never truly enjoyed being in the Father’s presence. Like Jacob’s eldest son Reuben who sought to preserve the younger Joseph’s life when his angry brothers threatened murder, this first-born son was responsible for the welfare of his younger brother. Had he been a son in the truest sense of the word, he would have grieved with his father at the loss of his brother and would have searched the ends of the earth for him.

How often do we stop and remember the reckless, extravagant love of our heavenly Father for us? Do we bask in His presence where there is “fullness of joy and pleasures forever?” Do we remember that He is not interested in our sacrifice or our works, but in our love for Him? I want to thank Him and Praise Him from the rooftops for this matchless love and for your devotion to Him and to this great work of prayer for those many young “lost sheep!” What a celebration it will be when we all feast with our Prodigal Father, our True Elder Brother Christ and the many who have come Home through our prayers! Never give up!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan".

Susan Admire

¹ Taken from “Prodigal” sermon series given by Rev. David Cassidy to Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, in March, 2013.

“Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee.” 2 Chr. 14:11