

# Thankful

## Thankful Series

### Part 2

November 13, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Luke 15:11-24, <sup>11</sup>And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the

pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

In our opening text, we are introduced to a story told by Christ about the Prodigal Son and a Father who was crushed by his decisions. In this story, the son made three pivotal mistakes that caused his life to spin out of control.

His first mistake was his choice to forsake his sonship and demanded his inheritance prematurely. His second mistake was his choice to forsake his citizenship by leaving his own land to go to the land of foreigners. And thirdly, there was his choice to forsake his worship and honor of God in exchange for the worship and honor of himself. And like this prodigal son, we all can identify to some degree with this story as being parallel to our own.

But I want you to notice with me what the next verse says... But when he came to himself... How many of us are thankful for the moment that we came to ourselves? That moment when the light bulb came on. The moment when we had the sobering realization that we were a sinner in need of a savior!

I thank God the Father for the moment that I came to myself! Church, our “coming to ourselves” moment may not all look the same but the outcome is always the same! We become the Redeemed! Thus Point #1...

**1. When We are Genuinely Thankful for Restoration, We will be**

**Genuinely Grateful for Our Restoration of Citizenship!**

- a. **“But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,**

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

- b. The Father Restored His Citizenship in the land the moment that he embraced the son who had denounced all that he had ever known! All the son wanted was slavery but all the Father wanted was his son back!
- c. The Apostle Paul declared in Romans 8:15, <sup>15</sup> "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
- d. True Restoration of Citizenship comes from the Spirit of Adoption and not a spirit of slavery. Remember, the son came to himself and said, "Treat me as one of your hired servants." Don't treat me as a son, just consider me a servant...
- e. The Apostle Paul declared in Colossians 1:13-14 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

- f. I am a Citizen of a Kingdom whose builder and maker is God! Church, this is not self-righteous statement; that is a Biblical truth regarding who we are in Christ as the Redeemed of the Lamb! We are in the Kingdom of His beloved Son! We have been translated out of the domain of darkness and into His marvelous light!
- g. Remember, when We are Genuinely Thankful for Restoration, We will be Genuinely Grateful for Our Restoration of Citizenship and we will not take it for granted!
- h. Point #2...

## 2. When We are Genuinely Thankful for Restoration, We will be Genuinely Grateful for Our Restoration of Sonship!

- a. “And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.’”
- b. The Father Restored His Sonship not just in the community but also in the House! The Robe and the Shoes were for the house but the Ring was for the Community! (Significance of the Ring)
- c. There was a Restoration of Sonship because the Father wasn't looking for another slave nor servant! He was seeking to restore His Son!

- d. Church Family, True Sonship comes from the Spirit of Adoption and not from our futile attempts at being "religious" or "churchy".
- e. Hear the words of the Apostle Paul noted in 1 Corinthians 2:12, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."
- f. In light of this text, please allow me to draw a point here. I am a son of the King of Righteousness and I am accepted in the Beloved and it is because of this knowledge that I do not willingly live in rebellion to the kingdom that I am now in by living in a manner that is unworthy of our holy calling!
- g. The Son knew the standard before he left and after he came home; this is why we must have a Biblical and Theological understanding of Grace.
- h. Grace will open the door to restoration in the house but it is not a permit to live defiantly against the very standards that the Father has defined for His House.
- i. Church family, the standard isn't lowered when Grace and Restoration are instituted; the standard is raised because now we know better and the Father expects of us to do better.  
(Go and Sin No More... Simply put, don't do this again...)

- j. Remember, When We are Genuinely Thankful for Restoration, We will be Genuinely Grateful for Our Restoration of Sonship!
- k. In closing, Point #3...

### 3. When We are Genuinely Thankful for Restoration, We will be Genuinely Grateful for Our Restoration of True Worship!

- a. <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."
- b. The Father reestablished right Worship by Demonstrating the Grace of God towards his disgraceful son! He restored His Worship from selfish living to selfless living! From living for himself to living for the Honor of his Father!
- c. Note the words of the Apostle Paul found in Galatians 4:3-7, "In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!"

Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

- d. Dear friends, we are grafted into the True Vine of Christ and our Adoption into the Kingdom of His dear son is complete when we repent and call upon the Name of the Lord. Therefore my worship flows from a thankful heart of restoration and not a fearful spirit of slavery or condemnation.
- e. I close with this thought: Jesus stated the following found in the Gospel of Saint John 15:12-15 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."
- f. There are Some of you here this morning who need a restoration of Citizenship. You need to make Christ the Lord of your life and translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His dear son. We are going to restore that citizenship this morning.

g. There are some of you here this morning who need a restoration of Sonship. You have come home to the Father but you have lived as a servant and not as a son or daughter. We are going to step forward into Sonship this morning!

h. And there are some of you here this morning who need a restoration of worship. You have allowed the failures of your past, the struggle of your present and the fear of the future to strip you of the affirmation that the Father gives us as Sons and Daughters.