

Sonship Part 1

The birth of this book took place when one day I was walking my dog and The Lord spoke to me and said, "You don't think I'm a good Father". That statement from the Lord shook me to the core. You would not think or expect to hear God say to someone who had been preaching the gospel for over fifteen years and walking with the Lord for as long as I had been at that time, "You don't think I'm a good Father." My immediate response was, "What"! What do you mean I don't think you're a good Father? But when I said, "What"! He repeated Himself, "you don't think I'm a good Father".

Mark 10:17-22:

As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." **Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have. Treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."** **But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was the one who owned much property.**

1. Do you think God is distant?
2. Do you think God will punish you harshly for your mistakes?
3. Do you think God doesn't care about the things you do?
4. Do you think God loves other people more than you?
5. Do you think God isn't there for you?
6. Do you think God abandons you?
7. Do you think God rejects you?

Discover Your Self-Worth

Mark 8:36-37:

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

There is nothing wrong with you. There is just something wrong in the way you think. The good news is that Christ died and rose again so you and I can be free from the lies living on the inside of us. Jesus assured us with the following:

John 10:10 NASU: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

1 John 3:8 NASU: "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."

Luke 15:8-10

8 "Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 "When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' 10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Lessons from the "Good" Son

There's more to the story of the prodigal son because now we turn to the "good" son who never did a thing wrong. Right? Well ... let's see.

Luke 15:25-32:

"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring about what these things could be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.

"But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

"And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live and was lost and has been found.'"

The Advantage Sons Have Over Servants

Romans 6:23 tells us that the only wages we can earn is death for sin. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Having Favor vs. Earning Favor

What Was Esau's Problem?

For years I have often wondered why would God hate Esau? **Romans 9:13** Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

Genesis 25:29-34:

When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore, his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so, of what use then is the birthright to me?" And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright.

What Esau did was equivalent to selling his soul for a meal. Esau didn't see the value of his soul being connected to God. In fact, he despised it and, because he despised it, God despised him. Or, as the Bible says, "GOD HATED ESAU." Jesus said in **Matthew 16:26** "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Esau didn't even ask for the world; He gave up His birthright for a bowl of stew.

Romans 5:8-11:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.