

TRINITY NEWS

MARCH 14, 2010

Lent IV The Parable of the Son who is Lost and Found Luke 15:11-32

This parable is not so much about the son being lost as it is about his being found and restored. The parable begins with the incredible generosity of the Father, who lets the younger son either force a sale or get paid out for his share of the family property. His father could certainly have rejected his demand. But the compassionate father, as Abba did in the Garden of Eden for Adam, allows his child to use his own mind and will. The son squanders his inheritance and winds up broke and desperate. He finally ends up feeding pigs and starving, not even being allowed the seeming luxury for him at that time of eating pig food, or even the pig's leftovers. Then he "comes to himself" and in his desperation he dreams of what he has left behind. His strategy of desperation is centred around what he will say to his father on his return home. "I will arise and return to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'"

He returns. It is the eternal return of humanity to the Father. While he is still in the distance, his father recognizes him and picks up the hem of his robes and runs to him. He's the waiting father, but in sheer joy he waits no longer. He feels nothing but compassion for his son. His filthy and haggard son, with his ragged clothes and worn-out sandals, is embraced and kissed. The son blurts out his prepared speech, but before he is finished the father turns and eagerly walks home with him. We may visualize his arm around his son's shoulders. He tells his servants to throw the best robe over him, to put a ring on his finger that bears the family insignia and to provide fresh sandals for his feet. Apparently there is no time for a bath! Then the father arranges a party, and what a party! The priority is to be alive, fully alive, and to be found, not lost. The celebration announces that the pain of separation is over. The elder son, who has stayed at home and worked his heart out, is naturally resentful of the unqualified welcome from the father. A party! What a travesty, or so he thinks. But not even the deep, and

perhaps justified upset of the elder son, can get in the way.

This father is clearly a model of the Heavenly Father. Kingdom celebrations are wonderful! Returning home to the Father brings joy! The emphasis is on reconciliation and restoration. It is the story of the Gospel. Our Heavenly Father wants to celebrate with his children. Nothing is to be withheld from his children. Incredibly, the Father loves us as much as he loves Jesus!

The choices we make in life are our own. No one else is to blame for our personal decisions.

Our lowest points can be our most creative places. The decisions that we make in time of need are decisive in our life. Life and its eternal significance is the celebration. The celebration has a note of urgency about it. No time is wasted in getting on with it. Neither should we waste any time. The past is not the preoccupation of the father: forgiveness and reconciliation drive the celebration of life: now! What does all of this say about our individual lives, and our communal life in our parish communities? Do you have a prodigal son or daughter who needs to come home? We cannot enter the house of their dreams, we cannot make their decisions, and sometimes we have to wait like the broken-hearted father. But when they come, will we run to meet them? "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate" is one of the most poignant requests in the Gospel. Compassion cannot be commanded, it can only be felt, given and received. Sometimes it takes great courage to offer it; and even greater courage to receive it.

Bishop Arthur Jones



Next week's readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:8-14; Luke 20:9-19

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Beryl Tanner, Peter, Bonnie SyCip, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Rom Vildzius, Loy Solasco, Aris Paraman, Johnny Manning Jr, Emerinciana Gatela, Benjie Conzales, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Richard Kendall, Diana Croyston, Merly Quiapos, Susan Dalmas, Helen Irvine, Ron Jacob, Carrie Angus, Suzanne Jacobson, Amy Gonzales, Janet Johnstone, Ema Duhaylongsod, Ron & Vera Thoburn, Nikolai Gordevich, Fidelia Matthews, Gloria Domingo.

THIS WEEK:

Mar 15, Monday

- Finance meeting, 5:00pm, Office.
- Vestry meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

March 16, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am, Parish Hall.

Mar 25, Thursday.

- Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.
- Bible Study, 7:00pm, Rectory.

March 21, Sunday.

- Regular Sunday worship, 7:30 & 9:30am
- Sunday School, 9:15am

	Pledges	Loose Plate
Last Sunday	P90,300.00	P17,536.00
Year-to-date	P754,616.66	P174,420.00
2010 Budget	P3,900,000	P940,000.00

Special Guests. Joining us for worship today are the 4th year students of St. Andrew's Theological Seminary, Quezon City. Welcome!

This email was sent to update parishioners and interested individuals in the events and activities of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Makati. If you do not want to receive any emails from CHT, kindly inform us via email. Thank you.