

THE GOOD NEWS!

Intent of the Parable

- ✓ *In the form of a simple and fabulous story or parable we try to expound the Good News Jesus brought into the World (Jn 3/16-17)*
- ✓ *God sent his Son into the world not to condemn it by to save it.*

Uses of this Parable

- Short Sermons
- Catechism Classes.
- Bible Study Sessions
- Prayer Sessions.

Target Audience:

Children.

Simple and unsophisticated people.

The Parable

Once upon a time, there was a powerful king. He ruled over all the countries of earth. He lived in a large estate with magnificent gardens, large forests, beautiful lakes and high-peaked mountains. At the center of that estate - a true paradise – he lived in luxury in a most beautiful palace.

He had only one son whom he loved dearly. His son besides wealth and comforts enjoyed this father's undivided love. Indeed, a lucky boy! He had more than the wildest dreams of avarice could wish for/.

One day, the King left his palace to visit his people scattered round the world in towns and villages. He walked through posh localities, high-rise tenements, as well as slums and pavements crowded with homeless dwellers.

He discovered, with grief and shock, the destitute, the hungry, the naked and the unwanted masses of his kingdom. As he moved on, he met the scum, the delinquents, the drunks, the addicts, prostitutes and their likes. He mixed with them all. He shunned none

He discovered rottenness and misery in his kingdom: exploitation, injustice, and violence. His heart went out to all; to the exploiters, to the heartless moneylenders, to the greedy merchants; the corrupt politicians their likes. He felt great pity for them all. He said to himself: I see that my people need help and salvation; many suffer injustices and oppression, others are blinded by their passions and greed. All are in need. I have to save them from their sins, and sufferings. His heart melted with compassion. He never condemned any one. He was full of pity and compassion for all.

As he returned to his Palace, he thought and thought what he could do for his people. Finally he decided to send his only son outside the comforts and security of the Palace into that wild world outside to help them, to save them. His son would tell the people of the love and compassion of their King..

He would bring the good news to one and all that his Father loved them, and that he wished to offer them all help and salvation. That he wanted to establish a Kingdom of love, justice and peace. From now on, all men and women would be like brothers and sisters to one another. All injustice, exploitation and violence should end, and only love, justice and peace prevail.

The King disclosed his plan to his son. He said to him: “My dear son, I need you. I have seen the evils and sins, the sufferings and troubles of our people. I want you to go out of the palace and stay outside, in the open world with the people of our kingdom; you will be one of them in everything except their wrong doings. You will visit their cities and villages; you will speak to the poor and to the rich, to the just and to the sinners. Tell them that I love them. Make them understand that they have to love one another as I love them. Are you willing, my son, to go to them?”

The King loves and obedient son replied: ‘Yes Father, I am! Here I am to do your Will. I love our people also. I am prepared to do whatever you wish me do for them. Even die for them.’”

His Dad remarked: “I am well pleased with you, my beloved son. However, I want you to know that when you go to the people and bring them the good news that I love them, they will not easily listen to you; they will rather reject you! They will persecute you and raise false accusations against you. They will condemn you to death and crucify you! My dear son, are you still willing to go and let them know how much I love them?”

“Yes, my Father”, the son replied. “I want to do your Will. I love your people, they are my people also.”

So, The King concluded: “My son, go then to the people of our Kingdom. Let the example of your life, of your love and suffering and of your death freely accepted for their salvation, remain forever as a sign of our unbounded love for them.”

And the son was delighted to establish, a kingdom of love, justice and peace in his Father’s realm. **And it was done! It was accomplished!**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. Do you think that any earthly King would have ever done such thing as told in the story? Why?
2. Yet, has this story ever taken place? If so, where and how?

3. Who actually are the King and the son of the story? What are their names? What did they do? Why?
4. From the Gospel's narrative and from the whole of the Bible can you tell how "that impossible story" came true? Explain.
5. What should our response to such a loving Father and to such a loving Son be?
6. Quote some Bible texts that confirm the truth of this parable.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER & MEDITATION:

- God is love. His very being is love.
- God loves us unconditionally without any merits of our own.
- God loves all people alike; good and evil, young and old, men and women, literate and illiterate etc.
- God loves us whatever we may do, though he may not like what we do
- God loves the sinners but not their sins.
- The love of God is a free gift. We may accept it or we may reject it. We have no claims at all to his love.
- We have to serve God out of love, not out of fear.
- God the Father expects us to be like his Son Jesus, especially in his love and obedience.
- God wants us to love our neighbors – all of them – as he loved us!
- He, who does not love others, does not love God.
- We have to ask God for the gift of being able to love others, even our enemies
- The ability to love God and neighbors is a gift of God.

BIBLE TEXTS ON THE GOOD NEWS:

Jn 3/14-21 (Specially verses 16 and 17)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life. For God did not send his only Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior”.

Jn 1/14 “And the Word became a human being and lived amongst us”

Lk 2/8-11 (Especially 10 and 11) Don't be afraid. I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all people! This day, your Saviour is born – Christ the Lord!

Ro 3/9-32 (Especially 22 to 26) “God puts men right through their faith in Jesus Christ. By the free gift of God's grace, they are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets us free”.

Ga 4/1-7 (Especially 4 to 6) “But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. To show that you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit that cries, Abba Father, (Father, my Father”)

Eph. 1/3-11 (Especially 5 and 7) “God had already decided that through Jesus Christ, he would bring us to himself as his own sons – this was his pleasure and purpose – For by the death of Christ, we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God!

II The 5/9 “God did not choose us to suffer his wrath, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us in order that we might live together with him. For this reason, encourage one another and help one another...”

Comment especially on:

- Romans Chapters: 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10
- Galatians. Chapters: 2/15-21; 3; 4/1-7
- Ephesians. Chapters: 1, 2