

THE GOOD NEWS!

P.Ribes, sj.

Intent of the Story

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

The Story

Once upon a time, there was a powerful king. He ruled over all the realms 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 could wish for.

One day, the King left his palace to visit his people scattered round his realms 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, in his kingdom, rottenness and misery, exploitation, injustice and violence beyond his imagining. His heart was broken, it went out, in love and compassion to all his people – good and bad - exploiters, heartless moneylenders, the greedy merchants; the corrupt politicians their likes. He felt great pity for them all. He heart was full of compassion for one and all. He never condemned any one.

He said to himself: My people need help and salvation; many suffer injustice and oppression, others are blinded by passions and greed. All are in dire need. I want to save them from their sins and sufferings

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 one and all..

His son would tell the people of the love and compassion of their King.. He would bring the good news all that his Father loved them, and that he wished to offer them all help and salvation. That he wanted to establish in his realm a Kingdom of love, justice and peace.

Thence forth, all men and women would be like brothers and sisters to one another. Injustice, exploitation and violence would end, only love, justice and peace would prevail.

The King disclosed his plans to his son: “My dear son, he said, 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, where the people live, you will be just like one of them in everything, in their sufferings and joys, in their poverty and destitution - except in their wrong doings. You will visit them in their cities and villages; you will speak to the poor and to the rich, to the good and evil alike. 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 out to them?”

The King’s son loving and obediently replied: “Yes Father, I am! Here I am to do your Will. I love our people also. I am prepared to go and do whatever you wish me do for them.”

His Dad said: “I am well pleased with you, my dear son. However, I want you to know, that when you will tell the people the good news that I love them, that I have sent you to them, they will not listen to you On the contrary, they will reject you , they will persecute you and raise false accusations against you. they will even condemn you to death and crucify you! , My dear son, are you still willing to go to live with them and tell them how much I love them?””

“Yes, my Father, I am ready!” the Son replied. “I want to do your Will. I love our people, as much as you!””

The King said’: “My son, go then to the people of our Kingdom. Let the example of your life, of your love and sufferings and of your death freely accepted for their salvation, remain forever for all a sign of our unional love for them””

***And so, the kingdom of love, justice and peace
in the Father’s realm was established
It was accomplished!***

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

**This story however, far fetched it looks,
is not just a plain story it’s history
You will find it in the Bible.**

Jan 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”.

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

Elk 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 Savoir 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”.

Gad 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...”

Specially on:

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- 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.