

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Teaching Series: *The Parable of the Father with Two Sons*

Teaching Two: *The Running Father*

Psalm 63.1-8

God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Text: Luke 15.11-24

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then 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 slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

Introduction

This is the story that Jesus told so that the Pharisees would understand why it was that he was eating with sinners, tax-collectors, a whole host of undesirable misfits.

The Parable of a Father with Two Sons

Repentance

I'm not so sure. I'm not sure that the boy is repentant so much as he is desperate.

I don't think the boy was repentant when he decided to go home.

The Running Father

The scene moves from desperate son going home to the anxious father waiting on the front porch.

If I had my way I think I would want this story to be known as the Parable of the Running Father. Because it is in this embarrassing display of unhindered love and shameless acceptance that we see the God that Jesus sees.

The One who Loves

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

The Father's Approval

A Story by Peter Rollins

A "Running Father" Community

"The real challenge of these parables for today's church is: what would we have to do, in the visible, public world, if we were to make people ask the questions to which stories like these are the answer" (N.T. Wright)?

Next Week: The Elder Son