



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Story of 2 Sons – Part 04

#### Joyful Saviour- Father

#### Luke 15:23-24

**Luke 15:23-24**, *And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; <sup>24</sup>for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.*

#### **What brings the Lord joy?**

Recovery of the lost. The salvation of sinners.

The Pharisees and the scribes wanted nothing to do with sinners.

Jesus wanted everything to do with sinners.

These two parables draw the Pharisees in.

Jesus draws them in by making the first two parables questions.

Jesus draws them in as if they were the person in the story. Drawing them into the experience and the thinking of the main character so that they really play the role in their minds.

1. Younger son
2. Father
3. Older son

We have looked at the younger son.

Last 2 weeks we have been looking at the Father.

Loving Father

Restoring Father.

This week we will look at his character as a joyful saviour not a reluctant saviour.

**V 11-12**, *Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.*

Unbelievable request yet the father grants him his request.

He had no concern for his father.

He gave the property

Younger son used the wealth turn them into cash and walked away.

Prodigal living and wasted all his possessions.

End up in wants.

Goes to the citizen of the country.

Sent to take care of pigs.

Lowest of lowest into his life.  
Come back to his senses.

Thinking about the father.  
Repented and returned to the father.

Father did 5 amazing things.

1. Saw him in a distance
2. Compassion on him
3. Ran towards him
4. Hugged him
5. Kissed him.

Rehearsed his speech

**V 18-19**, *I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."*

But when he meets the father, he would not let him finish his speech.

**V 21**, *And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

But his father did another unbelievable thing.

He received him and recognised him by restoring him fully by giving three things.

1. Robe
2. Ring
3. Sandals

We looked in detail that God is not looking for servants but sons.

This week we are going to see God is not a reluctant saviour but a joyful Saviour.

## **2 Chronicles 33**

The story of Manasseh is a perfect illustration of God's dealings with men and women today. Manasseh had no thought, place or time for God. In fact, he openly defied God.

### **Who was Manasseh?**

He was king of Judah, and he came to the throne at the early age of 12.

He reigned for 55 years and died at the age of 67. **(698–642 BC)**

### **Godly Heritage:**

His father was Hezekiah, of whom we read that he did right in the sight of the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 31:20**, *Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before the Lord his God.*

There is absolutely no guarantee that because a man's parents are godly then the man himself will grow up in the fear of the Lord.

Hezekiah's son was Manasseh who turned out to be one of the worst characters in the history of his times. He was a great sinner.

**2 Kings 21:16**, *Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the Lord.*

### **Manasseh sinned against God:**

Although Hezekiah had fallen into pride during his later years, he humbled himself and walked with God.

Godly Hezekiah had not spent time telling his son and heir to the throne about God and the great things God had accomplished during his reign.

Besides Hezekiah had Isaiah the prophet and other godly men in the kingdom. The priests and Levites were teaching people the law of God.

There is no such thing as an innocent child.  
I love kids!!

Kids are so cute and sweet.

But my theology says that every child, even one born to Christian parents, has a sinful nature capable of all the awful things that Manasseh did. Every child raised in a Christian home is as much in need of a definite conversion from God as Manasseh needed.

As Christian parents, we need to pray, work, and look for signs of conversion in our children.

**Manasseh sinned boldly and made others to sin:**

**2 Chronicles 33:2-7**, *But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup>For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. <sup>4</sup>He also built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever." <sup>5</sup>And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the*

*two courts of the house of the Lord. <sup>6</sup>Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. <sup>7</sup>He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;*

All the godly people in the land after Hezekiah’s revival, they would have opposed Manasseh and forced him from the throne. But people tend to be followers.

While they will go along with a king who is bold for the Lord, they also will quickly turn aside and follow the next king who is bold to do evil.

### **Manasseh loved himself and hated God**

**2 Chronicles 33:8-9**, *and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers—only if they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.” <sup>9</sup>So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.*

All sinners love themselves and hate God, but it's especially true of those who practice idolatry, witchcraft, sorcery, and sacrificing their own children to false gods!

People do those things to manipulate spiritual power for their own benefit.

### **Why offer your own children to the gods?**

So, the gods will be nice to you!

Too bad about the child's happiness.

They are only concerned about themselves.

With idols, you can make your own god according to your own liking. If you don't like a holy God who confronts your sinful behaviour, you create a god who tolerates sin. At the root of all idolatry is the love of self and the hatred of the one true God who alone deserves and demands our obedient love.

### **Manasseh repents:**

**2 Chronicles 33:12-13**, *Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,<sup>13</sup> and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.*

God showed him mercy.

## **How did Manasseh repent?**

*2 Chronicles 33:15-16, He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city. <sup>16</sup> He also repaired the altar of the Lord, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel.*

Repentance is not just talk.

It is faith in God that results in a godly change of direction.

Manasseh “humbled himself greatly” before God (V12). Humility is at the heart of repentance.

The root of all sins is pride, thinking that we are sufficient in ourselves apart from God.

## **God pours out His undeserved blessings.**

*2 Chronicles 33:13, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.*

Amazing grace!

**Did Manasseh deserve that?**

No way!

God would have been perfectly just to say, "I forgive you, but you will die as a captive in Babylon."

Manasseh son Amon followed his father's sin, not his repentance!

Amon was assassinated after two years on the throne.

God waits to bless every sinner who repents.

Manasseh reigned 55 years in Jerusalem.

Fifty-five years!

That's the longest reign of any king in Judah, longer than David or Solomon or Hezekiah!

**Why would God allow this wicked king to occupy the throne for 55 years?**

For the same reason He has put up with all the wickedness in the world to this point in history.

Let us come back to Luke 15!

Manasseh was like a prodigal son!

But when the younger son repented his father was so joyful to accept him and restore him and celebrate him.

**V 23, *And bring the fattened calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;***

Every family that had animals.

A wealthy family like this one would have a special calf in that day would fatten.

The word “fatten,” by the way, in English - the Greek equivalent in the original text is the word for “corn” or “grain.”

This is grain-fed veal.

This is prime veal.

They kept that calf around for such a thing as the wedding of the older brother, or some very significant dignitary who came, some monumental event which would call for a massive mega feast.

This is the biggest event that has ever happened in the history of the family or the village from the perspective of the father.

We have the picture of heaven rejoicing.

Just one lost sinner comes home, and God puts on a mega feast.

The animal had been long before selected, fed, cared for, kept for this special occasion.

Meat, by the way, was rarely eaten in the Middle East in Jesus' day. Only on special occasions did you eat meat at all.

A calf like this could feed up to 200 people. Because everybody in the village would be there. It would be an insult to the villagers to have a whole calf and not invite everybody.

The whole meat had to be eaten at one sitting. They didn't preserve those things. Everybody comes on and join the party.

**V 6**, *And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'*

**V 9**, *And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'*

**V 24**, *for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.*

When the son left, they would have had a funeral. It was as if he was dead. He had wished his father dead, and so they treated him as if he were dead.

### **What is death?**

Separation from God is called death in the Bible.

**John 11:4**, *Then Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

**John 11:11**, *These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."*

**Matthew 9:24**, *He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.*

**Who brought him to life?**

**Who gave him his life back?**

**God the Father.**

**Did he earn it back?**

No.

His father gave it back with all the rights and privileges.

This is not so much the celebration of the son.

This is the celebration of the father!

The feast honours the father!!

- ✓ It honours the father for what he has done.
- ✓ It is the father who gave him back his life.
- ✓ It is the father who made him a son.

- ✓ It is the father who restored him to blessing by merciful forgiveness and gracious love.

The whole village comes to rejoice with this shameless father who celebrates his own grace and his own mercy.

This father has exhibited

- ✓ unheard of kindness,
- ✓ unheard of goodness,
- ✓ sacrificial love,
- ✓ sacrificial grace.

The son who was lost is found.

The son has new life, new status, and new attitude.

He has for the first time a real relationship with a loving, forgiving father, who has made him heir of everything he possesses, to whom he has been reconciled, and to whom he will eagerly give his love, his service in response.

The son entrusts his life to the father and the father entrusts his resources to the son.

The son is finally home.

He's in the father's house.

He's in the family.

He has full access to all the riches of the father.

He joins with everyone in celebrating the greatness of this event.

*“They began to be merry.”*

Because this party never ends.

Heaven the endless celebration of the grace of a loving Father to penitent, believing sinners.

Heaven’s joy will never end when a sinner comes home.

God receives the penitent sinner who comes repenting and believing.

**John 6:37**, *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

God gives forgiving grace that is lavish.

God replaces the filthy stinking rags of the sinner with His own robe of righteousness.

God gives the child of His love forgiveness, honour, authority, respect, responsibility, full access to all His treasures, and the full right to represent Him.

We come bringing to the people around us the treasures of God as His ambassadors.

God treats the sinner as if he was royalty, making him an heir and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. God holds a heavenly

celebration for every wretched sinner who comes to Him and it never, ever ends.

God doesn't hold off the party for some big event when 10,000 people get saved in some stadium somewhere. No.

The party starts when how many sinners repent?

One.

Every time, and the party for every sinner never ends because it's a party in honour of God, not the sinner.

The more and more, day in and day out, as the Lord saves people, the party is extended, and extended, and enriched, and enriched, and the angels, and the redeemed saints are praising God for being such a gracious and reconciling Father.

## **Conclusion:**

Will love story of running away with his girlfriend while the family tries to find him for his cancer treatment.

**The question to ask us is what contribution do we make to the party?**

If you are not a Christian, this is a time to receive the love of the Father who waits for you to return.

If you are a Christian, are we pursuing the joy of God by doing everything we can to take this glorious gospel of forgiveness to the people we meet?

Religious people never understand this. The Pharisees hated the idea that the Father treated a sinner this way.