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"The Prodigal's Father"

Scripture Lesson:- Luke 15: 17-24.

Text:- Luke 15: 20-23.

Introduction:- The Prodigal Son is the subject of many sermons. I doubt that there are as many made of his father. Yet the father is a man of many parts, and should have been made the subject of many a sermon.

The prodigal son as a subject of a sermon seems to have been over done. Once a preacher was asked to speak before the inmates of Joliet prison, but said his interviewer, "By the way, if you should come, do not preach upon any part of the prodigal son". "We have recently had 24 ministers here by actual count, and they all gave us the prodigal son for a sermon."

I.

A fathers love. Does a father have love for his children? Yes, he has a deep and profound love. A boy who was leaving home says. "I never knew until I was leaving home that my father loved me. But as he let go of my hand and started for home, he said, Good bye, son. May the Lord bless you. As he turned to go I saw a tear in his eye, that tear rolled down his face and dropped on the ground. That was the first time I knew my father loved me.

When I looked on the 50 cent piece he had given me, I knew what it had cost him. I knew then that it was all that he could give me, and in that gift I saw my father's heart. I knew that he loved me.

II.

"But when he was yet a great way off". God requires but three things if we would know him if we would know him in this way. First, There must be a willing mind. Second, there must be a desire to know the truth that we may do it. Third it requires an honest confession of one's intentions.

III.

"His Father saw him". I have always felt that he saw him through tears. Dr. Rainsford and the German professor.

1. Do you not think it is possible that there may be a God?
Yes, possible.
2. Do you not think it probable that God has made a revelation of himself? "Yes, probable.
3. Well, do you not think that He would make this revelation plain to us if we asked him?"

"I should think He would be obliged to."

Have you ever asked him. The old man answered "No".

For my sake will you ask him now? Together they fell upon their knees in the study, and the minister said, "Lord God, reveal thyself unto my dear friend!"

The professors prayer, "O God, if there be a God, show me the light, and I will walk in it. Just then he saw the light, and sprang to his feet, and cried "It is glorious!"

IV.

"He had compassion on him". The word compassion means "suffering with another".

V.

What did he do for him? First he kissed him. Not after he had changed his garments. But he threw his arms around the dirty, unkept clothes, the soiled cheeks and planted the kiss of forgiveness on his brow.

Second, "Run, bring the best robe and put it on him". The best robe was put on him to cover all the signs of his wanderings. God does the same for you and me. The moment we believe his robe

is placed around us.

Third. He put a ring upon his finger. The ring is an emblem of completeness. This was a beautiful sign that the father's love was perfect.

Fourth. He put shoes upon his feet. He took the hand of his father and together they ran back to the old home. One of the commonest excuses by men for not yielding to Christ is the fear of not being able to hold out. But the moment we are saved he puts on our feet, the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace.

V.

"And they killed the fatted calf". They ate and were merry. The old man is running about saying, "Come in and rejoice with me, for my boy was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found".

Conclusion:- Old man waiting on the train platform for his son. The son had gone away, saying that he would return. After 13 years he had not come. The old man said, "He will come, because he said he would".

God waits, looks, loves you. Thus Jesus Christ entreats us to look unto him, and be saved, and in His name, I bid you come.