



**Sunday Activity
Pages**

March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Lent

1

Gospel

Gospel – Adapted from Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and sinners were all coming near and listening to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So Jesus told them this parable:

“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance now.’ So the father divided his property between his two sons. After his father gave it to him, the younger son left home and went to a country far away where he spent all his money on a life of sin. When a famine hit that land, he was in desperate need. He got a job taking care of pigs, but the pigs had better food than he did. He thought, ‘My father’s workers have plenty to eat, but I am dying of hunger. I will go to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me as a hired worker.”’ He arose and went to his father. When he was still a long way away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to him, kissed him, and said to his servants, ‘Bring him the finest robe, and a ring for his finger, and shoes for his feet. And prepare the fattened calf. We will celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.

“The man’s older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what the party was for. The servant said to him, ‘Your brother has returned, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf for a feast because he has him back safe and sound.’

“He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when this son returns who wasted your money on his sins, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’

“He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

2

Reflection

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son, as it is widely known. But it could be called the parable of the older brother. Sometimes we may feel like the younger son, who has run away and wants to come home; and sometimes we may feel like the older brother, the “good one,” who wants to see the sinner punished instead of forgiven.

This parable has lessons for both, and it tells us something very important about our Father. Jesus told the parable to people who were upset that He reached out to sinners. The older brother in the parable was angry that his father welcomed his sinful younger brother back, when that brother came home and asked for forgiveness. The father tells his older son, “My son, you are with me always, and everything I have is yours, but we must rejoice because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.” If our hearts are really becoming like God’s, we will want to see sinners repent, not suffer. We will be happy to see them come to life again.

The father in the parable was looking for his son, probably every day, hoping that one day the boy would come home. And instead of punishing his son for his disrespect and sinfulness, he kisses him and welcomes him back to the family, grateful that his lost child has finally found his way again. When we sin, we turn away from God. This parable reminds us that if we ever go away from God, He is always looking for us, waiting to celebrate when we find our way back home.

3

Discussion Questions

What message does this parable have for us when we are like the older brother?

What message does this parable have for us when we are like the younger brother?

4

Vocabulary

- **Merciful** – To be merciful means to reach out to help someone in need. It also means to forgive others. Since God is merciful, He offers us forgiveness for our sins.
- **Parables** – Stories that Jesus told to teach a lesson.
- **Repent** – To repent means to turn away from sin, and turn back to God.
- **Sin** – Anything we do that is against God's law. When we sin, we turn away from God.

- 1) Jesus told the _____ of the Prodigal Son.
- 2) In the parable, Jesus stresses that God is _____ to sinners.
- 3) When we _____, we turn away from God.
- 4) When we _____, we turn away from sin and turn back to God.

- 1) In the parable of the Prodigal Son, what did the father do when his sinful son returned home?
 - A) Celebrate
 - B) Threw him out
 - C) Ignored him
 - D) Punished him for all his sins

- 2) How does the older son feel when he learns about the party for his brother?
 - A) Excited
 - B) Angry
 - C) Happy
 - D) Afraid

- 3) What should we want to see sinners do?
 - A) Be punished
 - B) Be forgotten
 - C) Repent
 - D) Tell parables

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CELEBRATE
 MERCIFUL
 PARABLE
 PRODIGAL SON
 REPENT
 SIN





Fill in the Blank

- 1) Parable
- 2) Merciful
- 3) Sin
- 4) Merciful

Quiz:

- 1) A – Celebrate
- 2) B – Angry
- 3) C – Repent