



Luke 15

- Vespers: Scribes and Pharisees angry and complaining to our Lord because he was letting His disciples break tradition
- Matins: The laborers of the early hours were angry and complaining to the Landowner because He gave the laborers of the 11th hour the same wage as them
- Liturgy: ...

Inexplicable Forgiveness Because of Infinite Love

- 70 times 7 times infinity
- He ran to the son
- Fell on his neck, with his dirt & smell
- The best robe
 - → restored as son
- Ring on his hand
 - → gave him authority
- Sandals on his feet
 - → peace
 - → separation from earth

Inexplicable Forgiveness Because of Infinite Love

- The fattened calf He's been preparing for this day
 - Holy Communion
- Luke 15:
 - The good shepherd → Called His friends & neighbors
 - The Woman → called her friends & neighbors
 - The Father → "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance"
- Who's in heaven?
 - God
 - Angels
 - Saints



Is there anything in common between him and me? ⁽¹⁾

- He chose to separate himself from the Father, the angels and the saints!
- He actually did worse:
 - The younger brother was very far
 - Came to himself on his own
 - Returned to the Father on his own
 - The Father came out to big brother
 - Called him to join them
 - "pleaded" with him
- At the beginning of the story, one son went out and the other one stayed in
- At the end of the story, the younger went back in and big brother stayed out
- Who's the winner here? What matters more is how we finish!

Is there anything in common between him and me? (2)

- His attitude / his heart:
- "These many years I have been serving You"
 - Not out of love
 - He thinks he's been doing His father a favor
- Who
 - Gave you life?
 - Raised you?
 - Nourished you?
 - Protected you?
 - Taught you?
 - Gave you the work / made you feel important?
- It is Your Father Who has been serving you!

Is there anything in common between him and me? ⁽³⁾

- His attitude / his heart:
- "I never transgressed Your commandment at any time"
- No one is without blemish even though his life on earth may be a single day
- "We have all sinned and fell short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
- You have transgressed against your Father many times

Is there anything in common between him and me? (4)

- His attitude / his heart:
- "You never gave me a goat to make merry with my friends"
- Your Father is the most generous Father
- "He divided to them His livelihood" (Luke 15:12)
- Even though he's been living in his Father's house all these years
 - His heart is just like young brother
 - He also desired to make merry with his friends
- The difference is he didn't declare his heart's desire to his Father

Is there anything in common between him and me? (5)

- His attitude / his heart:
- "As soon as this son of Yours came, who has devoured Your livelihood, You killed the fatted calf for him"
 - Transgressing against his Father
 - Blaspheming → "I'm a better judge than You are"
 - A worse offense than younger brother
 - Disregard for the Father and the Father's joy
 - If you love the Father, then what makes Him happy makes you happy
- He said something right
 - He is your Father's son, not yours!
 - He wasted your father's livelihood, not yours
 - It is your Father's fatted calf, not yours
 - Your Father's banquet in your Father's house, not yours
- So what's it to you?!

What about me?

- ❖ What's my attitude / heart towards a person who has sinned and came back to church?
- ❖ Do I join my Father, the angels and the saints in rejoicing, or separate myself?
- ❖ When God accepts him and reaches out to me to love my brother?
- ❖ "With the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you... Look at the plank in your own eye"
- ❖ Am I physically in my Father's house, but my heart is actually outside His?



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