



GOSPEL INSTITUTE

The Father's Love

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The Father's Love

Session 1

The Prodigal

Paul, 11 Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. 12 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. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with [d]prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the [e]pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” 20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 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.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, [f]‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. 25 “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ 28 “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ 31 “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’

The story is not as much about a son, but more about “A Father”. Jesus begins the story with, there once was a man!

The story is not about a prodigal son, but actually about a prodigal Father.

As religion would have it, we focus on the sins of the boy rather than what God wants us to focus on, his heart and sonship.

The revelation that Jesus came to bring was that God is a not a master, but a father.

The word **prodigal** means: One who spends or gives lavishly, recklessly extravagant.

Jesus Came to Reveal 3 Things

1. Jesus came to reveal what God was like – that God is a father.
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2. Jesus came to reveal who we are in Him.

The revelation of God is incomplete until I get a revelation that I am complete in Him.

3. Jesus came to reveal what the devil was like.

Lined area for writing.

God deals with man based on covenant.

There is no revelation of God without the person of Jesus Christ.

God is not a master, but a father.

When I doubt my sonship, I doubt my origin.

A good father who has 2 sons. This story isn't just the story of one bad son, but about 2 sons who had an orphan heart. Neither had intimacy with the father.

Orphans: Orphans implies you did not have a father. The truth of the matter is, the thought that you did not have a daddy was an illusion, you always had one.

Two Kinds of Believers

1. Those who are waiting for the day they will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant".
2. Those who operate from the words, "You are My son in whom I am well pleased".

The runaway saw the father through guilt - SIN
The one who stayed behind saw the father through pride - LAW

When the son returns the father gives him 3 things:

1. His Robe - restores identity
2. His Ring - represents authority
3. Sandals - restores his purity

Master vs Father.

Master	Father
Relationship of control	Relationship of intimacy
Based on your performance	Based on his nature

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Session 2

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba,[e] Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:14-17

A healthy revelation of Jesus Christ is required for you to know who God is and to know who I am and without knowing who I am, I cannot fulfill my destiny. There is no identity without my identity.

Your judgement is not in your future. Your judgement was in the past on the cross.

Slaves/Orphans	Sons
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Are not secure in their relationship with God	Know that their relationship with God is secure forever
Strive to please God and earn His favor	Receive and walk in favor because of relationship
Try to medicate their alienation with the father through outside or physical stimulation	Receive and walk in the Father's love on a daily basis, living a fulfilled, complete life in the Presence
Live in constant competition and jealous of other's success	Operate from rest and celebrate one another
Easily offended and angry	Walk in love and honor
Work hard to become successful and views others as a means to success	Know they are already blessed and therefore serve to be a blessing
Walk in fear, never trusting	Walk in love which casts fear out

The opposite of love is fear.

Orphan Mindset: It is a mindset that questions the goodness of God.

The Garden of Eden is the human perspective of the fall and the Prodigal Story is God's perspective.

Fear Introduced in the Garden

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves [a]coverings. 8 And they heard the [b]sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the [c]cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Genesis 3:7-11

Vs. 7 Their eyes were opened: They received a revelation

Vs. 7 They knew they were naked and clothed themselves: Self righteousness

Self-righteousness is a product of fear, but righteousness is a product of love.

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44

Satan is a murderer and a deceiver.

Two Lies Introduced by Satan

GENESIS 3:5 'God knows' when you eat the fruit you...

THE LIES?

1. You will be like God. (RELIGION)

2. God is both Good and Evil. (DUALISM)

THE TRUTH?

1. They were already like God.

2. God is only good, not good, and evil.

Lie about themselves.

Lie about who God is.

Why did they run and hide in fear? Because the lie had already taken root, God is not only good, but also evil.

This then is the message which we have heard of him (Jesus), and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5 KJV

We are created by God to either act upon our faith or act upon our fear!

Verse 8: “They heard the sound of God walking in the cool.” God wasn't angry!!!

REFERENCED MATERIALS

- The Bible
- Book - TBD