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4-26-20

Luke 15

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

(Matthew 18:10-14)

1Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

Again, we see the lost wanting to be near and hear what Jesus has to say. The gentiles among them would not know or understand the idea of a living Messiah, what they do understand at this point is a man that is willing to show them love and respect unlike the religious leaders of Israel. The same would not be true of those with Israeli ancestry, they would have all understood the idea of a Messiah, but most of them held the idea of a Warrior Messiah.

2And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

Shunning is a long-held practice within many religions even today and it appears to be a Biblical legally allowed practice.

Q. Is that the intent based on Christ's actions and demeanor toward sinners? In other words if the Bible tells us to shun other believers should we do that?

1 Corinthians 5: 1It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Expel the Immoral Brother

9I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **with such an one no not to eat. 12For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye**

judge them that are within? [13](#)But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Q. What do these verses tell us to do if a fellow believer is engaged in this type of behavior?

Do not eat or fellow ship with them.

Sounds a lot like shunning.

2 John 1: [9](#)Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. [10](#)If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: [11](#)For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Again, sound a bit like shunning.

Q. What type of person might this be?

There are many religions in the world that promote extra Biblical teaching as being equal with the Bible. Name a few that you can think of and what documents do they promote as equal with the Bible?

We have then two cases; the first is inside the local church the second is outside the “Body of Christ His Church” and brings a different doctrine; are they equal in offense?

In the first case we see Paul confront a supposed believer within the body (Church) in Corinth that is committing outright sin of fornication. Those in the church seemed to turn a blind eye to this person and continued to fellowship with him. Paul is taking authority to condemn this person and those who in essence allow it to continue inside the church.

Q. Why would it be necessary to confront and condemn this type of behavior inside a local church?

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Luke has repeatedly spoken of the problem of sin allowed to remain in our individual lives as well as corporately within the Church. It is to be dealt with, confronted in Truth and Love. If the brother or sister admits to their sin and repents, then love them as a brother or sister. If they refuse to admit their sin and refuse to repent, then it is best to distance yourself from them for the reason given in Galatians 5:9.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. KJV

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." NAS

Precisely the reason the sinners felt comfortable with Jesus and not the religious leaders is the religious folks condescending and calloused attitude toward them.

I'm pretty sure if you have walked with Christ for any time even without saying anything people will apologize to you if they let a foul word escape. They perceive even as a sinner that they are in the presence of someone different, what the world would call a Christian. They don't understand beyond that; most likely they just recognize by the moving of the Holy Spirit that to swear in front of you is some how wrong.

I know of believers that have asked people to stop swearing or using the Lord's Name in vain and the response is immediate and usually very apologetic. Their conscience even though not believers yet is still pricked by the Holy Spirit. That is a good sign.

If, however someone knows you are a Christian and intentionally swears or acts unbecoming in your presence to get a rise out of you that is not such a good sign. Their conscience has been seared by Satan and they are in grave danger.

But here in lies the nugget; we are not to look down on sinners, but we are to seek to encourage them, not condemn them. We ourselves were at one time condemned but through God's Grace

we found salvation. The challenge for Christians is not to condone sinful behavior but to point to Salvation through our words and our walk. It is perhaps the most difficult thing a Christian can do is encourage without discouraging.

Jesus would state the Truth in Love. If the person accepted it and repented, then all was well. However, Jesus did not seem to dwell on or with people whom were simply opposed to the Truth, He would simply love them in the moment and then move on.

Luke 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. 20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. 22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. 23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. 24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? 27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Q. Was this man a sinner?

Obviously if you cannot enter the kingdom of God then it is because you have sinned and not repented and, in the end, refused to accept the free gift from God; His Son Jesus Christ. To accept Christ you must accept the Doctrines of Christ, refusal to do so puts you in that “unbelief” category.

Q. Did Jesus pursue after this rich young man to try to convince him of His sin? No, Jesus spoke the truth in love and let the man do as he chose. This was not a parable it would seem but a true encounter. If this would have been a member of the Body of Christ what would have been the answer? Same answer, but when someone confess to be a believer yet continues in sin, and refuses to acknowledge it as sin and refuses to put any effort toward repenting and changing, then the answer lies in;

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Galatians 5:9 is not a little saying, it is a Biblical fact proven and re-proven over thousands of years. It is to be heeded with extreme prejudice.

3And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto

them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

This celebration that Jesus speaks of in reality is the celebration in heaven for each lost sinner that finds Christ and submits to Him. The value is explained through similes using things we recognize as having value, but all the while Jesus is speaking in a Spiritual context, the context of Spiritual Salvation having more value than anything fleshly on earth.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find *it*? 9And when she hath found *it*, she calleth *her* friends and *her* neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

The things we spend our time searching out reveals what our true Spiritual location is. In this parable this woman places great value on a coin and spent her energy searching for the lost coin. If we expend our energy on search out God's Word continuously then the value, we have placed on God's Word is higher than on anything else. Just like the woman in search of this thing of value in the flesh, the Spiritual implication is that Jesus is in search of a

lost person; just as we should be. When a lost person is found and brought into the fold of the saved, great joy is found not only in that person and the believers that are aware of it but in heaven also.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

[\(Deuteronomy 21:18-21\)](#)

11And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

Wealth is not evil, if kept into perspective; it is the love of wealth that causes man to fall. This young man loved money more than he loved his father and his fellowship with his father.

*1 Timothy 6: 10For **the love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

13And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I

perish with hunger! **18**I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, **I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19**And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

This is precisely the words I would think ever believer has uttered, likely more than once. We are unworthy to be called the sons and daughters of God but by His Mercy through His Love and the sacrifice of His Son, God has offered to all mankind the opportunity to be the Children of God.

And as we in our hearts utter those words, this is God's response;

20And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet 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 unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. **22**But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: **23**And bring hither the fatted calf, 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.

This parable is so well known but you wonder to non-believers what is the essence of this parable? It is likely the same as the son who took the inheritance and spent it on lavish living until it was all gone. It is usually when the person has nothing left, they can go no deeper that they finally ask the best question of all;

What does it all mean? Why am I here? What can I do to find Love and Peace? All the time God is watching with great patience prepared at an instant to give the answer. The answer is Jesus Christ.

In one sense there are two main groups represented in this parable; the nation of Israel that wanted a savior and the religious leaders even though in error were devoted to what they believed was the right thing to do. The son that went away represents those of a lost world including Gentiles and Jews that had been lost due to evil living and were now responding to God by coming to Him through His Son Jesus. This would accelerate after the resurrection of Christ.

The following part; the elder son, is about the ill-advised and misinterpreters of the Law and those of Israel that walked in defiance to God through unrighteousness, even though devout in all of their efforts.

In a way it could be any religious person who puts more stock in their religion than in the Word of Truth. Surrender you pomp and circumstance and embrace the Word of God.

25Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26And he called one of the servants, and asked

what these things meant. **27**And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. **28**And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

The following verses is the objection from the son that stayed at home working away as he thought he should bound within the doctrine of religiosity as it were. In his own mind believing he had acted properly in all matters. The religious leaders and other devout Jews are offended to be told that they were wrong on so many levels after having IN THEIR MINDS so faithfully executed the desires of the father.

29And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: **30**But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

This had not played out yet, Jesus was looking into the future and seeing many Jews who would see the Truth and bow to Christ, joining all the saved both Jew and Gentile, joined together as one where God tells us there is no Jew or Gentile only believers.

31And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. **32**It was meet that we should

make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Will all Israel be saved; it is unlikely, due to the door being Jesus and many will hold to their mistaken beliefs about who the Messiah is. Many will hold to their doctrines that were man interpreted, blindly following the doctrines of man and rejecting the doctrines of Christ.

*Phillipians 2: [12](#)Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** [13](#)For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

[14](#)Do all things without murmurings and disputings: [15](#)That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; [16](#)Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. [17](#)Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. [18](#)For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

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