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WEEKLY LETTER –11 SEPTEMBER 2022

Luke 15.1-10

Jesus reveals what brings joy to all in heaven

It's important to highlight that Jesus' parables always focus on God's nature and God's world, so once again within these parables we discover again that God desires your good, and when you respond it gives God and all those in heaven a boundless amount of delight.

Of course the temptation is to put the sole focus on the way we live, but Jesus gave us these parables to encourage you to ponder on the way God is.

If you know and believe that Jesus is embedded in 'The Trinity', and that central to his time on earth was to reveal the fullness of God to us, we inevitably ask, what are these apparently 'simple' parables revealing, and what could cause God to have such infinite delight in you and your response to Him?

Perhaps it can be expressed like this. Because Jesus is 100% human, he knew from experience that we expire far too much energy trying to serve an image of ourselves as good people. He also knows we are fearful of the unknown, which is an ordinary kind of anxiety, we all know. In other words, he knows in his heart the gravitational pull we all experience to just carry on as we are.

If that is true, he will also know we would like to be more daring, and set our roots more firmly in the eternal. We would like to find the courage and a way to not only more fully understand God's truth, but also find an honest way of responding to it.

Every time Jesus speaks about 'Our Father' he speaks of a personal God, who addresses you in real time and within your personal context. Therefore, Jesus communicates God as a personal partner, I and you. I and God. The God who desires a loving relationship with you as an individual, so that you may experience the goodness of freedom.

Reminding yourself that God is a personal partner, may help you to engage with what is revealed in these two parables.

The goodness of freedom will come to you if you have a genuine desire within you, to move away from making God out to be impersonal, distant, and judgemental. In addition true freedom is given when we stop testing God to prove Himself, and step by step move away from the gravitational pull and pre-occupation with 'me'. Instead grasp that God has boundless energy for forgiveness, for newness.

The Bible consistently shows that God has a vast amount of patience in the restoration of friendship with humanity. Just as we find in the connecting parable of 'the return of the prodigal son', the father has untold amount of patience because he has confidence in his son, so God has unshakeable confidence in you.

Perhaps today, you can pray knowing you are made for eternity, and be inspired by the fathomless kindness of God. Perhaps this will help you to respond to God as his partner, friend and disciple, for this is what gives God, unending and infinite joy.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Dr Jason Askew.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton.

Prayers for Every Household – Pembroke Street.

Children’s’ Club

The Children’s Club will re-start this week - on Thursday, 15th , after a two year break because of Covid - a new day, and with a new leader. We wish our new leader and her helpers well in this new venture. God Bless.

TEA AND CHAT - TUESDAY 13th September - 2pm-3pm

at CHRIST WELL

come along for a drink and a chat

a time to share news and views.

Everybody welcome.

Freed to live my best life (Jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28: Psalm 14: 1 Timothy 1.12-17: Luke 15.1-10)

Dear God,

I know I am free to live my best life,
You give me the freedom to “be”.
I choose to be a faithful, worthy servant for You.
Help me live this life more than adequately.

I may not always do what is right in your eyes,
I am aware I fall short of your glory.
Still, out treat me with mercy, O, Lord, my God,
So, I have faith, and choose to trust YOU today.
Amen.

Caroline Akinyele (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)

