

## SALVATION IS PRECIOUS

Luke 15:32 (The Father of the Prodigal son is speaking these words to his oldest son) “It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”

A soul is priceless. To God one soul is of such value He sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ to earth to redeem (buy back) the souls of sinners making payment for them with His blood shed on Calvary’s cross. Regarding the salvation of souls, Jesus said, “I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The older brother of the Prodigal Son was very angry with His father for welcoming him home and throwing a party to celebrate the repentance and homecoming of his brother. After all, in that culture, when his brother asked his father for his inheritance before his father’s death, he had rejected his family. He brought humiliation upon his father in the eyes of the community. In addition, he took the money and wasted it on a sinful lifestyle. To the older brother the father’s open-arms-welcome of his younger brother was a slap in his face. Restoration back into the family was beyond the older brother’s imagination. How could his father do such a thing?

What about the older son? Frankly, his spiritual condition was no better than his younger brother’s. His words to his father indicate he was self-righteous. He wanted his father to accept him based upon the “good things he did” rather than because of His love for him. The older brother failed to see he needed his father’s forgiveness also.

Your heavenly Father’s forgiveness of your sins is no different than the father in Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal son. When you come to God, your heavenly Father, confessing your sins and asking Him to forgive you, there is no reason for Him to do so other than His unconditional love. The Prodigal son had rejected his father, but His father never stopped loving him. So, it is with God. It is God’s fatherly love for you that prompts Him to be ready to hear your confession and grant you forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

The Angels in heaven, the saints there with them, and the Body of Christ (the church) on earth rejoice over those who confess their sins, repent of them and seek God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Your soul is priceless. It is priceless in God's sight.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for Your unconditional love for me, a sinner. Thank you for forgiving me for Jesus' sake and receiving me back into Your family. Guard me that I value and keep the faith you have given me in Jesus. In His holy name. Amen.

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us, His Holy Spirit waits;  
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.  
(LSB 915)