

## Looking for ...

Luke 15:11-32

Leitverse: 17-19

17 Then he came to himself and said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread in abundance, and I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants "!

Welcome to the Summer Bible Camp in Hattingen with the theme: Why Jesus?

We want to find out by various sermons and texts from the Bible why Jesus is the answer to fundamental questions of human life.

All people are looking for a fulfilling and happy life, or even about the meaning, what is worth living for. The search for success, career, material prosperity, a dream man or dream woman are examples of the human search. But can we do this alone, really happy. If this were so, would be a lot of people very happy, because never have so many people were rich. In fact the world is full of hardship, strife and adultery. And what's about our hearts. Is there joy, happiness and joy bubbling? - For me at least not often.

Today's scripture tells us exactly of such a seeker. He has set out to find the pure life. He has gone in search has to realize and enjoy life. Jesus gave this parable here by two groups, especially the mirror, on the one hand the tax collectors and sinners publicly ostracized, and the other Pharisees and scribes.

### **Part 1 - The search of the younger son**

Let us listen to Jesus in his parable: A man has two sons. The younger of two sons can the heir by his father pay off early to go out into the world and seek his fortune. The story begins with a pretty outrageous claim. The son asked the legacy of his father was still alive, because he wanted to build his own life after his own ideas. Probably he felt hemmed at home, he wanted to hear neither the Council nor the censure of his father. He valued his external freedom, its self-determination and the physical pleasure as more important than the relationship and love of his father and decided to go wayward path.

As the father responds to this audacious claim? Amazingly, the father pays him the money, even though he knows exactly what drives her son and what he expects sinister. He could be very hurt, but still not forcing him to stay at home. He respects his decision, although he probably feels great sorrow there and let him pull. The son moves first into a home closeby, but soon to have an apartment in a distant land. He wants to live as far away from his father, that the Father of his life finds nothing and he gets as a guilty conscience. This shows that he really was looking for the absolute freedom and complete independence from the father. He behaved as if the father had no love towards him and his son would be completely indifferent. As such, only bad thoughts about her father coming into his heart?

As it happened with her son away from his father? Consider the verse 13b:

13 ... and there he squandered his inheritance through with riotous living.

He enjoyed his life to the fullest and lived the high life. He treated himself to anything he had ever wanted, because he thought he would be this happy. He has celebrated parties, bought fancy clothes and a great car to impress the girls and thought, so found the freedom to. He said it could go on endlessly, but faster than he thought, was all used up.

And what happened then? - Verse 14: "When he had exhausted all of the gifts, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need ..."

When all the money was spent, suddenly all so-called "friend" wasn't there. Due to the great

famine, he started to "starve", he had to suffer hardship and shortages, but no one helped him. He had tried to buy love and appreciation with money. But true friendship and true love can't be bought, no matter how much money and wealth you could have. Now he suddenly had to think how he could survive just.

Verse 15: "and went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 He longed to fill his belly with the husks that the swine ate: And no one gave him "

As the famine worsened the situation even more, he had to accept lowest work and could not buy enough to eat anyway, so that he envied even the pigs to eat her food and wanted it, but it was not allowed.

Instead of being free and happy, he was now a hard-hearted employer depends, not even begrudge him of the lining of his pigs - so now he was hardly noticed.

The parable teaches us a fundamental human problem: People think that if they live in self-determination to strive for their carnal desires and seek superficial freedom, able to develop better, as the son, who separated from his father. Leave God lightly with the idea that he would be an indifferent God who forbids men to have all the fun and high demands on us. How could he think so negatively? Could it be that he has himself cheated or deceived by others is because they think negatively about God?

But what follows? - They become people who starve with hunger for true love and depend on other poor gentlemen. If you leave God's love is, in fact dependent on people outside of the situation of his miserable feelings and sin. These people are ruthless and dependency inevitably makes us unhappy.

What did the younger son when he was in such distress. Let's look at verses 17-19:

17 Then he came to himself and said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread in abundance, and I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father and say to him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants "!

Given his miserable situation, he came to himself, his wrong attitude to the father saw and decided to return home.

Why he came to himself? - Because he recognized the face of his great distress of his sin and the love of the Father.

In verse 17 he said to himself: "... How many hired servants of my father's have bread in abundance, and I perish here with hunger" He realized that he perish from hunger, if he would live his life more so as before. He remembered how rich his father was, above all kindness, so that with him every day laborers got bread in abundance. And he remembered his sin which he had done to his father, especially his ingratitude and ignorance of paternal love. He would make excuses and pass the buck to the external situation, his boss or his faithless friend, but he did not.

He said in verse 18 and 19: "I will arise and go to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants "!

The younger son did not try to find an excuse, but admitted his guilt without compromise. He also met the clear decision to abandon his former life and return to his father. In retrospect, he recognized the goodness of his father and saw him with new eyes, as he has deceived himself and simply adopted a negative image of the father of another. His belief in the goodness of the father's easier for him now to reverse and the admission of his guilt.

What happened to him when he had made that decision? - Let's look at verses 20-23:

20 And he arose and came to his father. When he was still far away, his father saw him and had compassion, he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 The son said to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, henceforth I am no longer worthy to be called your son. 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring

quickly the best robe and put it on him and put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet 23 and get the fatted calf and kill it, let us eat and be merry! For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry. "

If we see here the father's behavior, we must wonder, given his forgiving and accepting love sincerely. Regardless of the severity of the sin of the son the father took his son as his child again heartily and forgave him without any ifs and buts. What a wonderful love!

This parable teaches us three important things about God.

First God is waiting eagerly for the reversal of the lost man - because he loves us so much!

The father has been waiting the whole time in pain on the reversal of his son had. The father had no rest for his lost son, and kept looking out the window. Even when he was still far away, he recognized him, although he has outwardly changed very determined. Although the son was ragged and dirty to him, he was not afraid to meet him and hug the stinking son of a most heartfelt manner and to kiss.

So God is also waiting for each one of us and longs for us to close as his beloved child in his arms!

Second God forgives the repentant people like to blame their

Like the father in the parable of the returning son forgives happy, he likes to take everyone who repents to Him. The Pharisees thought that God had great pleasure in condemning the sinner, but in truth, God forgives people like to repent of their guilt before God. He has a lot more great pleasure to forgive the people and to deliver them. In Isaiah 1: 18 God says to his people: "Come now and let us reason together, said the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, and though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. "

Third God wants a personal love relationship with every person

Let us read the verse 24 once more common: "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry. "

Why he was as dead? - Because God alone is our Creator as the source of our life and happiness. People with no relationship to God are spiritually dead, as cut flowers in a vase, which look beautiful for a while, but no more roots and wilt have. Although they live, but without God does not know their true destiny and die without getting the abiding life.

According to the Bible, all people who live without God, be judged by God after death and condemned to hell because they themselves have left the source of life.

The dependence of people or things ultimately makes us unhappy. How different is the dependence on God alone. It gives us only true freedom and a real sense of life, and abiding and eternal happiness, for God is kind, loving and very high values us. So everybody has to make a decision, either separated from God to live a short time when his own master or go back to him, our loving Father and his eternal wealth.

How else is God here in comparison to the many prejudices and disbelief in the world. How different it is compared to most human fathers who had responded determines injured, legal and repellent.

How can we have a personal love relationship with God and be saved from eternal perdition? We must, like the prodigal son honestly go into ourselves and recognize our great need to believe in the Father's love and make the decision to ask honest and heartfelt God, our loving heavenly Father and Father of all men for forgiveness. God will forgive you and then takes us immediately as his dear child.

Then we get to the goal of our search - and found again, like the prodigal son. So we may now know that we do not need to look for, we just have to wait and loving God who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ, firmly believe and trust him more than all the superficial lies and deceit of our hearts and the world. What kind of corrupt and sordid hearts, we all have it. It is no good. All good things come from God.

Jesus reveals God's wonderful love here, we can only find him. He is the Supreme being, after all men crave, because they were created by Him and for Him. No person or material thing can be a substitute for God and His love. All human suffering comes from the wrong search in the world, and God is waiting so long for each individual.

Why Jesus? - So it will go into further talks this weekend.

We want to meet Jesus at this conference as evidence of God's love for us and how great is the love of God through Jesus Christ, even to us, by inviting all the guilt and deserved punishment on Jesus. What a love of God with the lost sinners!

## Part 2 - The older son

In fact, Jesus' parable here would be over, but it goes further.

Verses 25-32 describe the reaction of the elder son of the warm welcome of the prodigal son by the father.

In verse 29 said the son, the father remained at home: "... Lo, these many years do I serve thee, and I never disobeyed your command, and you never gave me a goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But, because this son of yours came, who has squandered your living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. "

At this point the self-righteous and lawful action of the elder son is obvious. It should look like the father of his brother's return. He was pleased but not, they even angry and jealous. Although the elder son had seen the outside with his father worked hard, he, like the younger son had maintained a personal love relationship with his father. He had rather a service relationship with his father, which was based on his performance. The grace of the Father he enjoyed low. He did not realize that the father loves his children regardless of their performance. How sad is it that

he did not really enjoyed the love of the Father and with no inner joy.

What the father said to the son? (Verse 31)

31 And he said unto him, My son, thou art ever with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But you should happily and be glad: for this thy brother was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found ".

The wonderful love of God, the Father was patient with this son and waited on him. The second part of the parable Jesus told the Pharisees who criticized him because he had the publicans and sinners community. They presented themselves as exemplary believers knew God, but neither heart nor his love personally. They just needed to learn about Jesus, see their falsehood and run into the open arms of God. But God is also compared with self-righteous and full of patience waiting for their insight and repentance.

Testimony

In this parable, I find myself very well. Though I was furnished in the Catholic church with all the sacraments: baptism, communion, communion, etc. I had accepted God's love for me personally and actually had in his youth as a lost son lived: alcohol at parties, relationships with girls with various disappointments, were false confidence in myself, friends and acquaintances, and depending on me for a some people very painful youth and college experience. Especially my future seemed to me at that time quite dark and fearful. How miserable and helpless I felt alone. But God wanted him closer I got to know. God had been waiting patiently for me all the time and asked me finally, a Korean missionary through a cafeteria at the Cologne to know him properly. The curiosity outweighed my skepticism of what could be an Asian tell me about God. During the joint study of the Bible but then said God through Jesus in Mark 1:15 to me personally: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, Andrew, and I believe in the gospel. "

I could accept God's love for the first time, to me personally. By further study of the Bible, I realized that I had actually lost a bloody and vain

existence and should have gone live and in the end would be lost forever, because I had lived without God's love, smug and selfish. Through the Bible, I discovered God's love and was overwhelmed that God knew my need and helplessness for so long and had been waiting for me. How bad could suddenly my fault and how great was the grace of forgiveness! I found relief from my guilt and sin and chains for the first time had great joy and inner confidence in your heart. Living with him was a great joy to me, and I got the desire to know him in Jesus Christ always better. He also gave me the best of all wives and two lovely children.

But despite many years of religious life to old injuries surfaced again and the deceitfulness of the world crept back into my heart, so I was harder and more self-righteous – just like the elder son. Lord, forgive me for my duplicity, ignorance and self-sufficiency. To remind me of your love and pass it to me again enchant and satisfy, so that through me your love in this great need, this great privation can flow out to the world.

Today's parable Jesus tells us that lost people when they disobey God's fatherly love. It also shows us that God is waiting eagerly for the reversal of the lost people. Let us turn back to his love tonight and honestly come to him.

#### Summary

People look for happiness in many ways, life meaning and real fulfillment. Jesus' parable

shows us that happiness in a good relationship with her father and a close connection there with him. Without him, our lives look like, like that of the prodigal son.

What a disappointment stemmed from his miserable search! What joy and happiness but welcomed him back in his father's house! Jesus is God as a loving father here, where each of his children is very valuable. It is very sad when one of his creatures turn away from him. He knows their lostness and loneliness in the world and wishes with all his heart his repentance to Him.

The parable also shows the falsity of those (Old Christians) that the father was my cause dry and joyless life (of faith), but it is still to have fallen through deeds and achievements, rather than the joy and the happiness of childhood with gratitude to enjoy

Why Jesus? As has already shown the parable, Jesus has a special position and knowledge - both on the situation of the people and the nature of the Father. When he could find even the so-called public sinners like prostitutes and tax collectors love of God and personal esteem. Jesus has the key role as mediator to bring us back to the Father. He shows us how the father and as the Father considers us to be so precious. Much larger and more important points about Jesus, we are experienced in other sermons.