

Refrigerator Notes 06 March 2016
'Lost and Found' Through Penitence
Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

1. The morning lesson was on the Parable of the Prodigal Son a familiar text to all Christians
2. Most church goers have been told that the parable is about sanctification (through conversion) of a sinner
3. However, the parable is much more than conversion of a sinner, it entails symbolism and analogies between the Father and Son
4. It's really about reconciliation of the Son to the Father, but more than that, the real tragedy is that the father gains his youngest son back, but he loses the oldest son
5. A snap shot of the story is that the youngest son wants his inheritance before his father dies, which he receives only to squander his father hard earned monies
6. But the youngest son returns home out of necessity, in earnest, to repent his earlier actions
7. The father having grieved over the loss of his youngest son is elated to see him return home
8. The father has the servants to bring the finest robe, saddles and a ring that symbolizes that the youngest son is restored to full Son-ship,
9. All these things represent what we receive in Christ upon salvation: the robe of the Redeemer's righteousness (Isaiah 61:10), the privilege of partaking of the Spirit of adoption (Ephesians 1:5), and feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, prepared to walk in the ways of holiness (Ephesians 6:15)
10. The father feels as if it is a day of atonement and wishes to celebrate the return of the Prodigal Son
11. While the oldest brother feels righteous indignation
12. Had the youngest son been dealt with according to the Law, there should have been a funeral, not a celebration.
13. "The Lord does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him, as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him" - Psalm 103:10-13
14. The real tragedy was that the elder's son should have helped in the reconciliation between the father and the lost son
15. The older brother's focus was on himself, and as a result, there was no joy in his brother's arrival
16. The oldest son is so consumed, with issues of justice and equity, that he fails to see the value of his brother's repentance and return.
17. He fails to realize that "anyone who claims to be in the light, but hates his brother is still in the darkness.
18. The oldest son, becomes a stumbling block.
19. Romans 14:13 says, "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister."
20. DPC, we all have sinned and fall short of the word of God — 'Where is your forgiveness' and where is your penitence (remorse)?
21. The depiction of the father receiving the son back into a right relationship is how we should respond to repentant sinners as well (1 John 4:20-21, Luke 17:3, Galatians 6:1, James 5:19-20).