

FRESH START SUNDAY

March 31, 2019

2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Psalm 34:1-8; Luke 15:11-32

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Is there ever a time when you don’t need a fresh start?

OUR WAY FOR A FRESH START

THE PRODIGAL (WASTEFUL) SON

“And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ Luke 15:12

- He had nothing “coming” to him...
- He wasted property. More importantly he wasted Grace...
- “But when he [the son] came to himself, he said...”

THE PRODIGAL BROTHER

“Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.”

- The elder brother wasted Love... He felt he was entitled...

THE PRODIGAL GOD

How dare we call God “prodigal.” God? Wasteful?

“And he [the son] arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” 2 Corinthians 15:20

Maybe “Lavish” sounds better? Certainly we know God is “merciful” and “gracious.” The point is God lavishes this upon us and we too often waste it.

THE PRODIGAL’S CONFESSION

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” Luke 15:18,19

‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ The Father Interrupts!

GOD’S WAY FOR A FRESH START

IN CHRIST - THE NEW CREATION

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

- 1) This creation can only come from God and by God. Children “who were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh not of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:13

TO BE “IN CHRIST”

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

‘*Christos*’ Greek meaning, anointed one.

To be “in Christ” is to be “in the anointing.”

This is the Holy Spirit.

- 2) The “old things have passed away.” The “old” refers to everything that is part of our old nature—natural pride, love of sin, reliance on works, and our former opinions, habits and passions.
 - The “new things have come.” New heart. New love. New perspective. New ways. New creation.

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Luke 15:11-32, THE PRODIGAL SON

The Prodigal (wasteful) Son

“But when he came to himself, he said...,”

- What was happening with him at this moment?

The Elder Brother

This brother believed he deserved his due.

Luke 15:28, ““Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.”

verse 31, “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’”

2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

WHICH SON DO YOU MOST RESEMBLE?

Just like with Mary and Martha we recognize there is a bit of both of them in each of us.

So too, these two brothers. We must admit we are both wasteful and entitled.