

THE FATHER WITH TWO FACES

INTRODUCTION

I once read a true account of a man who committed a serious crime, and was tried and imprisoned for a number of years. He had a brother who happened to be a friend of the governor of the state in which they resided. The governor was indebted to the brother of the prisoner, so the brother went to the governor and persuaded him to grant a "pardon" for his brother who was in prison. He took the "pardon" with him and went to visit his brother in prison. He asked him this question: "What would you do if you were granted a pardon for your crime.?" His imprisoned brother replied, "The first thing I would do would be to kill the judge who sentenced me to prison, and then I would kill the man who testified against me." Upon hearing this, the brother with the pardon in his possession realized that his brother had **not repented** of his crime, and was not ready to get out into the world. He slowly slipped the "pardon" back into his pocket, and walked out of the prison, leaving his brother without the pardon. He went away **sad**, but would have been **glad** to have given him the pardon if he had been deserving of it.

In this lesson, we are going to look at a true story of the Bible, where a father had two faces: a **sad** face and a **glad** face, as recorded in the 15th chapter of the book of Luke.

DISCUSSION

I. In the first place, the father with a SAD FACE.

A. The story begins by reading the story of a young man that undoubtedly gave his father a **sad** face.

B. Surely, the young man was not very troubled to see his father's **sad** face, as he revealed what he wanted to do. (Read Luke 15:11-17)

1. 1st, the son was **SELF-WILLED**. v. 12A

a. What may have caused this?

1) It may be that he was influenced by the "company he kept," to get away from his home life to become his own man. 1 Cor. 15:33

2) It may be that he was attracted to the "pleasures and allurements" of the world. 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 2:15-17

3) It may be that he was "over-ambitious," and had **big ideas** about getting rich, and just wanted to take his money and leave.

4) It may be that he was "quarrelsome by nature," and just could **not** get along with his father, mother or older brother.

5) It may be that he was "spoiled lazy," having been the youngest member of the family.

6) It may be that he had been "careless" in his religious duties, and was under pressure to live right, and since his heart just wasn't **in** religion, he just decided to get away from it all.

b. Whatever the cause, it undoubtedly broke his father's heart and made his face sad.

2. 2nd, the son was also **SELF-INDULGENT**. v. 13, cf v, 30

a. The young man spent all his father had given him in self-indulgence, and went into poverty. v. 14

b. He obviously forgot he had a soul, and sank to the level of brute beasts.

3. 3rd, the son brought **SELF-INFLICTED SORROW** upon himself.

a. This included **hunger**. v. 14

b. This included **humiliation**. vs. 15-16

c. This included **home-sickness**. v. 17

II. In the second place, the father had a GLAD FACE.

A. Let's read the portion of the text that led to this. (Read Luke 15:18-24)

B. There are 4 distinct things that characterized this young man's life at this point.

1. 1st, there was **DETERMINATION OF THE MIND.** v. 18a
 - a. He would "arise," for he had been wallowing in the mire with the swine or pigs.
 - b. He would "go" back home, which was a long way back from the "far country" to which he had come. Cf v., 13
 - c. He would go to his "father"--back home, which was far better than living with pigs.
2. 2nd, there was **ACTION OF THE BODY.**
 - a. His body had taken him away from his father. v. 13
 - b. Now, his body would take him the long journey back to his father. v. 20A
3. 3rd, there was **CONFESSION OF THE MOUTH.** .
 - a. Now, he was going to confess his sins. v. 18
 - b. Now, he was going to confess his own unworthiness. v. 19A
 - c. Now, he was going to ask to be just a servant. v. 19
 - 1) He blamed no one but himself for his status.
 - 2) He now realized his moral and spiritual condition.
 - a) He knew he had sinned against God in heaven. v. 18
 - b) He knew also that he had sinned against his own father.
4. 4th, there was **PURPOSE OF LIFE.**
 - a. No longer did he wish to be classified as a son, for he was unworthy. v. 21
 - b. He was willing to simply be a servant.

CONCLUSION

I. What moral lessons do we get from this Bible story?

- A. 1st, we learn that a good home life is better than wasting one's life in sin.
 1. He had wasted a very important part of his life. v. 13, 20
 2. He had now returned to a better life with his father. v. 22-24
- B. 2nd, we learn that sorrow always follows sin, and we have to live with and remember a sinful past. Psa. 32:1-5
- C. 3rd, we learn that we reap what we sow. Hos. 8:7; Gal. 6:7-8
- D. 4th, we learn that repentance really is a change of mind that results in a changed life. 2 Cor. 7:10
- E. 5th, we learn that the changed life is more blessed than enjoying the momentary pleasures of sin. Heb. 11:25
- F. 6th, we are reminded of the folly of ignoring the warnings of danger.
 1. No doubt, the father had warned his son about what might befall him, but he would not listen.
 - a. He came to himself, or his senses, before it was absolutely too late.
 - b. He remembered how good life can be under the right circumstances.
 - c. he remembered what sin was, and how heaven looks at it.

2. There are many danger signs in society today, that we know **not** to ignore—such as *Beware of Dog, Ice on Road, Bridge out Ahead, Polluted Water, Product Contains Poison, and Use of This Product May Cause Cancer.*
3. The warnings of the danger of tobacco, drugs (including marijuana), alcohol, and the consequences of fornication—**all** need to be heeded and remembered by all of us.

G. 7th, we learn that there are father's with **sad** faces today, when their children go astray, but **glad** faces when they return in repentance to make things right and to change their own lives to righteous living.

II. If you have made your heavenly Father's face **sad** by your sins, won't you make Him **glad** by repenting and obeying His will—right now?

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