



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

TRANSFORMING POWER OF REPENTANCE

Luke:15:18-24.

The fifteenth chapter of Luke is one of the best known and the most dearly loved of all the chapters in the Bible. As the third parable, Jesus told about the Prodigal son let us meditate briefly on the following points:

1) The Power of Sin: The young man desired to get away from his loving father so that he could do as he pleased. The Bible warns of the deceitfulness of sin. It is the most dreadful enemy we all have. It looks attractive in the beginning but destructive in the end. Not only the young man, but we all have also done the same thing. " All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way" (Isa.53:6)

2) The Reason for Repentance: What was the occasion of his repentance and the return? It was his affliction. When he was in want, then he came to himself. Afflictions, when they are sanctified by divine grace prove happy means of turning sinners from their errors. David wrote, " It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes." (Psalm: 119:71)

3) The Power of Repentance: His repentance led him to a resolution. " I will arise and go to the Father." We must repent, resolve and return. When he put his decision into action, he received an unexpected, hearty welcome at his father's home. This is how God longs to welcome every penitent sinner that comes to Him. The Bible pictures God as a merciful father who delights to forgive.

During the time of my college education I went astray from God due to the bad company I had. I have been yielded to all evil practices. I became wayward and had no peace of mind. Even the sudden demise of my father at his 43, who was a Govt. officer, did not make any change in my life, rather I took it an opportunity to enjoy the life more freely. Although I got a Govt. job, I lived without any concern for my widowed mother and the youngsters. But my heavenly father had a plan for my life. I happened to be in a prayer meeting in our place due to the compulsion of one of my relatives. There the Lord convicted me of my sins and led me to repent and to take a decision. I surrendered my life to the Lord. I came out as a transformed person.

We have a loving, forgiving, transforming father.

Prayer: Merciful father, let this Lent be a time for us to repent, to resolve and to return. In the name of your loving son, we pray. Amen.

Dr. Thomas David, Yonkers, NY

" I will get up and go to my father and say, Father I have sinned against God and you. I am no longer fit to be called your son....."

Luke 15:18