

At The End Of The Journey; The Lost Son

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.” (Proverbs 3: 5-7)

It takes a long time for a human until he can reach the right decision in life. This is the real issue I observed to different kinds of people around me and in the society. But like the long and tiring journey that would always come to an end, man should come to a right decision to enjoy the fullness of life.

Scene 1: A young man living in a foreign land, away from his family, was in a destitute situation. He was separated from his wife and his son. He recently lost his job after a quarrel with his boss. He was out from his rented villa because he did not pay the owner. He was recently a bad guest to an old friend who was treating him badly. He was often with empty pocket and hungry stomach, begging and seeking help from everyone he knew. I met this man at this situation of his life and I advised him to go back to God and give his life to Jesus. I told him to consider God as his father and he being the son. I advised him to humble himself, accept that he is a sinner living in a dirty life and invite Jesus, who suffered on the cross and died for his sin, to begin to live with him. *“This is the way to receive blessing from God: turn away from sin and turn to God, surrendering everything to Him.”* I told the man that every good and perfect gift of God is free, and he could receive as a son. He agreed to accept Jesus and to trust Him in all his ways. But later I discovered that he was pretending just to pave the way to gain sympathy from my heart. Now, he is still cheating, lying, and living with a girl in an immoral life, with same anger, jealousy, fits of rage and rebellion to God and to everyone. At this moment my heart is squeezed and this question comes out from my lips: *“How much more this man need to suffer until he will take the right decision to go back to God?”*

Scene 2: I met a young girl 22 years old. She came recently to the country from a foreign land assuming to work to gain some money for the future. But when she reached the new place she found that reality was too short to offer her what she dreamed or planned for. She was in dilemma in making the right decision whether to go back home or to stay. I met this girl and as I discussed her situation, I put a fact in front of her eyes, *that no one can help her to make the right decision except God.* This girl she knew Jesus, the Saviour and Creator, but unfortunately she did not know that she must recognize Him as her personal Lord. I told her that Jesus must lord over her. She must allow Jesus to interfere and take full control of her life and situation, and give solutions to her problems. I suggested to her *God’s wonderful free provision;* to accept Jesus as personal Lord and to follow the Lord’s instruction, so that things would come right to her life. But to my amazement she refused this offer and she did her own decision. I felt so sad, but at this station I remembered my old-self how much I resisted God and how much I was faithful to keep a big distance between God and myself.

The Lord Jesus Christ narrates the parable of the lost son that speaks about the same: **“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father; Father, give my share of the state.” So he divided his property between them.**

Riches, beauty, power, all and everything that any human is having have originally come from God. But man denies this truth and considers that things came from his own effort; he worked hard and earned riches, he took care of his body that made him attractive, he got education and experiences so he gained power, he gave gifts to organizations and became famous in the society. Man has sought for independence, separating himself from God, and ultimately has decided to live a life based on his own resources of knowledge, procession, and experience.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.” (Luke 15:13-16)

The fate of the son in this parable is continuously happening in the lives of those who decide to depend on themselves. They forget that human being has only limited power, provision and wisdom. Thus, *to seek real independence man must totally be dependent on God for his life, his needs, and in all his decisions; so that he can be independent or free from the lies and deceitfulness of the world.* Working against this fact leads to skid rows and deterioration of life’s aspects; professionally, mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and all the more spiritually.

Jesus’ parable continues to say; “When he came to his senses, he said, “how many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men. So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still along way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” (Luke 15:17-20)

My dear and beloved: As you have read faithfully this message I wish it makes meaningful sense to you. I pray and trust in God that He will take care of your life, guiding you in the right path as you are submitting yourself to Him. This is my prayer for you: *“Heavenly Father, I entrust in Your hand the lives of my dear brothers and sisters to protect them from the evil one, and to guide them in the right path always. I trust your faithfulness to every one, to help them come to their senses and to fully surrender their lives to You. Lord Jesus, this life is equal to nothing without You. Shower Your blessing to Your people, Lord. Comfort and encourage them as You show Your love and compassion to each day. This is my prayer for them in Jesus’ name,” Amen.*