



2010 OUR YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE

Remember me, O LORD, with the favor You have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation, That I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance. Psalm 106:4-5

Editorial—Rebecca Otitoju

What is the favor that God has toward His people?

At our February conference prayer meeting, we asked ourselves the above question and below are some of the things people mentioned as the favor that God has toward His people (**not listed in order of importance**): Salvation, Peace, Rest, Prosperity, Health, Eternal life, Unconditional love, Protection, Deliverance. I am very sure that we can not exhaust this list, so add more to it as it comes to your mind. Meditate upon each word and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a revelation on what each word stands for in God's heart as it pertains to you. Favor is something that we all desire in anything we do, therefore, experiencing God's favor should be a big deal for a Christian. I pray that in 2010, we will all experience God's favor in every aspect of our lives in Jesus' name. Amen.

In this quarter, we will celebrate Easter, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, what do these celebrations mean to us? Easter especially is a demonstration of love and favor that no human word could describe. Reflect upon that love and favor and let your heart be filled with gratitude to God every day. It is God's will that we honor our fathers and our mothers, so remember to do so always. Remain blessed.

JESUS IS LORD

The Love Of A Father (Luke 15: 11-24)

James Otitoju

Reading through the passage above, I was motivated to share with you what the love of a father supposed to be toward his children. The topic also challenged me to re-think if I have shown my own children the fatherly love. I encourage you to read the above Bible passage and as you do I want to ask you this question, do you really love your children as this man in the passage did? Even though neither the man's name nor those of his children were mentioned but the parable is worth emulating.

He was the father of two sons. One was addressed as the 'prodigal'. I have read and preached on this passage, listened to other people preached about it, and yet I wasn't very sure of the true meaning of this word 'prodigal.' Webster Dictionary defines prodigal as someone who is "...recklessly extravagant; or characterized by wasteful expenditure." Looking at the definition, it speaks to the kind of lifestyle many of us live today.

Often we are given this idea that there was two sons, one was bad and the other one was good, but that isn't the case in this parable. Both boys had some problems, and their father dealt with each one individually. Whatever the case may be, I would like us to focus on the father rather than the sons today. It was because of his genuine love for the sons that made them become what they should have been despite their

shortcomings. Let's look more into the life of the father.

1. He was an Approachable father, (vs. 12-18)

Sometimes we fathers always think we are the only ones to do the talking, do the planning, give the order and restriction whenever possible. All these are not bad but not good enough. There should be a room for dialogue or communication between both parties, dictation does not do the job well enough especially in this modern world. If a two year old child wants a cookie and you say no, the child wants to know why he/she could not have cookie, otherwise the child will not stop asking until the request has been granted.

This father listened to his son's request for his own inheritance, probably had a talk with him as to why such an irrational decision, however, whatever the case might be, gave him what he requested for, and I believed he prayed for his son even as he left home for God's protection over him and a chance to learn a lesson that would help him come back home (my assumption).

What I am saying here is that the father granted his sons an opportunities to talk to him because he was approachable, just as our Heavenly Father is very approachable by those who need Him. He wants the lost to come to Him and be saved. Can your children come to you about anything and still experienced been loved? Please think about it.

2. He Was A Spiritual Father (v.18)

When his son thought to himself after he had experienced what was out there and discovered that he had actually sinned against his father, he decided to come back home, without further delay he headed back home with the aim of saying to his father, "I have sinned against Heaven, and before you."

Continue on Page 2

Inside this issue:

The Love of a Father	Remem-	1-2
The Heart of God		2
Food for Thought		2
Game		2
Jochebed: A Woman of Faith		3
A Tour of 1st Timothy 5		3-4
Contact & Special Announcement		4

The Heart of God - Murray Carswell

Have you ever considered how easy it is to misunderstand or misrepresent what someone says? There are many reasons you could or would do this. Some reasons are fairly innocent, others, not so innocent. All of this leads us to once place. That place is not very appealing because none of us knows what the motives of the person who made the statement are. So why do we do this if it is so troublesome? Again, there are lots of reasons. Some again are quite harmless., others however are quite harmful. When we consider what happened to Jesus, we see this dynamic in play. Jesus was doing such wonderful good to help the people; but the religious rulers were very suspicious of him and wanted him dead. In John 18:14, we read a statement by the High Priest of that day, Caiaphas, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Imagine that—a High Priest prophesying the heart of salvation. That man didn't want the type of salvation Jesus came to bring. Why is it we misrepresent or misunderstand something someone says. One major reason is we don't take time to know the heart of the one who made the statement. The Father sent the Son so we could know the heart of our Maker. Here is one of the major motives why God came as a man to free us from the tyranny of sin. The Lord instituted Passover for deliverance: first from Egypt, secondly from sin. Have we taken time to get to know the heart of the one who loves us so much? If you know this heart of love, fortunate you are. If not, that is very easily remedied. Simply admit you are guilty of sin. Turn from that way of life and ask God to forgive you. It will be the beginning of a great adventure in your life.

Murray Carswell is a Pastor at the Ambassadors for Christ Ministries Inc.

The Love Of A Father - Cont'd

He wouldn't have been able to do this if he felt that his father was not approachable and

JESUS IS LORD

spiritual. This also could mean that his father had taught them well, it is just that if some children haven't tried what is out there they don't always realize what tremendous opportunity they have at home with their parents.

The responsibility of child training rest upon the parents and not the school see Proverbs 22:6. Having said that, I would like to add that children have their own freedom to make some choices about what they want to do. If your children are serving God, thank God for it and be an encouragement to them. If they aren't walking in the way of the Lord, don't write them off, love them still and be praying for them. Our world is wicked and yet the Almighty God still loves us and even sent His son to die for us. The steadfast love of the Lord never seizes, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, and great is the faithfulness of God to us. Christ died for us when we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8).

3. He was an affectionate Father (v.20)

I could see the look of love in the eyes of the prodigal son's father in the 20th verse of the passage we are dealing with today. "And he arose, and came to his father But when he was yet a great way off, his Father saw him, and had compassion and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." It looks as if the father had been looking for the return of his son. What a beautiful picture to see how God longs for us to come back home to Him when we go astray. The father pictures for us the love and compassion of our Heavenly Father to us. I grew up in a home where I knew what love is. My parents loved everyone of us and related with us accord-

ingly. Whenever we did anything wrong and they disciplined us, they will call us afterward to explain to us why they took the action they took when we were disciplined. When I think about the way we were loved by our earthly father , it gave me the impression of God's genuine for us as His children.

Conclusion:

We see that the father didn't care about how long his son had been away, now he was home. He didn't care about the smell of the swine on his clothes, all that mattered was that the son was home after all. He was no longer concerned about what he took away and wasted. He was lost but now has been found. This supposed to be a challenge to all of us today. Do we need to come home to God right now? Fathers, mothers, children, young or old, Jesus is calling us to come back home, we have been away from Him for so long, now let us come back home to Him. He is waiting just like the father of the prodigal son was, to receive us just as we are. Why not come to Him right now, tomorrow may too late. May the Lord bless you as you make up your mind to come unto Him just as the prodigal son made up his mind and headed back home to his father. Will you Come?

James Otitoju is a Pastor at the Ambassadors for Christ Ministries Inc.

JESUS IS LORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Remember your past victories in order to open the door to your present and future victories. Read 1 Samuel 17

GAME - BIBLICAL CHARACTERS AND BOOKS IN A STORY.

Find the Bible characters and books of the Bible in this story.

As I begin this story, I would like to tell you about a group of people who were slaves in a foreign land. After many year of hard labour, God sent a man who was saved by the king's daughter but nursed by his mother to plan an exodus for this people. At a point God told him to number the children of Israel to know how many of them are eligible to go to war. Along the way, he exited the scene and another person took over who promised that "As for him and his household they will serve the Lord". At the end of his ministry there were many judges who ruled over this people and after a while the they asked for a king at which point the child of a former barren woman who became a prominent prophet anointed a king over them. Later on, a shepherd boy won a big victory for this people by killing a Giant and this shepherd boy eventually became their king and fought and won many battles on their behalf.

Watch out for answer in the next issue

JESUS IS LORD

JOCHEBED: A WOMAN OF FAITH - Rebecca Otitoju

I am sure this name; (Jochebed) is strange to some people, even zealous Christians. It is not a popular name but it is in the Bible. Jochebed is the mother of Moses. Most of the time we talk so much about Moses and fail to remember that Moses' Parents have some influence on him as we see him. The name of Moses parents were not mentioned until in Exodus 6:20.

Moses was born at a time when the King in Egypt at that time had decreed that all Hebrew baby boys be killed. The king gave this order to the designated Hebrews midwives, who were Egyptians, (Exodus 2:15-18). Moses might have been among the boys who were spared because in verse 18, the king questioned the midwives as to why they did not kill all the boys.

Jochebed, Moses' mum knew her baby "... was a beautiful child, so she hid him for three months." (Exodus 2:2). When she could not hide him any more, she thought of what to do. She came up with an idea. She made a basket, put him in it and placed the basket in the reeds by the river bank.

You think Moses' mother will do this without a reason? Let's go back to Exodus 2:2. She did not only see him as a beautiful child, but she knew God had a plan for Moses' life and will do anything to make the plan come true. The Bible never mentioned Jochebed praying and fasting before doing this, but I am sure an Hebrew woman of that generation could have prayed to the "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Jochebed did not place the basket in the reeds just like that, she left Moses' older sister to keep an eye on her beautiful brother. Not long, the daughter of Pharaoh came to wash at the same river. She saw the basket and went for it. When she opened the basket and saw this child crying she knew this must be one of the children of the Hebrew people. His sister immediately came out to ask her if she needed help in nursing this child. Because all these were the plan of God, the daughter of pharaoh never argued, and Miriam went to get her mother to nurse him. As the child was handed to her she was told "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." Exodus 2:9.

Remember, there was a decree to kill all newly born Hebrew baby-boys. Hebrews 11:23 says "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command." Truly, they were not afraid of the king's command. Because of this, God created the opportunity for Moses to be brought back to them in a miraculous way. His mother was paid for nursing her own child. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes his enemies to be at peace with him." What happened to Jochebed was nothing short of the verse quoted above from Proverbs.

My challenge to all mothers, God had a plan for your children even before you ever thought of having them. The perverse and corrupt generation in which we are is not an excuse to be "afraid of the king's command." What are the "king's command" today in our generation? Peer pressure, gangs, some anti-family government legislations, etc. Are we to succumb to all these for our children to be spiritually ruined? No. we should pray, fast and keep holding on to God. In Genesis 32:26, Jacob told the Angel who visited him that "... I will not let You go unless You bless me!" We should go to that extent in our prayers for our children. Let God know that we will not let Him go until He hears our prayer concerning our children. Our God is faithful and He remains faithful forever. Let us continue to pray for our children until we see them do the will of God. God bless you.

Rebecca Otitoju is a Pastor at the Ambassadors for Christ Ministries Inc.

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A TOUR OF 1 TIMOTHY 5 - Longinus Ekeh

Focal Scriptures: 1 Cor.6:12, 10:23-24

Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims" (1 Cor.6:12 – The Message Bible.

"All things are legitimate [permissible--and we are free to do anything we please], but not all things are helpful (expedient, profitable, and wholesome). All things are legitimate, but not all things are constructive [to character] and edifying [to spiritual life]. Let no one then seek his own good and advantage and profit, but [rather] each one of the other (let him seek the welfare of his neighbor)." (1 Cor.10:23-24 - Amplified version).

1 Timothy 5:

Verses.1-2 Presents family relationships in the Church, namely, father, mother, brothers and sisters, not just in name but in deed. The life of self-dependence is alien to Christianity. There should be a relationship of accountability; the younger ones should have spiritual father or mother to whom they are responsible; the older men and women should care for the younger ones as their biological children.

Verses 3-4 Care of children to their parents not optional but obligatory. Christianity is practical; taking care of your parents, brothers and sisters when you are able, is a sign of godliness. Jesus re-

buked the opposite in Matt.15:5 (that is, those who thought that helping their parents was not necessarily obligatory but a favor). "Take care of widows who are destitute. If a widow has family members to take care of her, let them learn that religion begins at their own doorstep and that they should pay back with gratitude some of what they have received. This pleases God immensely" (1 Timothy 5:3-4 Message Bible).

"But if a widow has children or grandchildren, see to it that these are first made to understand that it is their religious duty [to defray their natural obligation to those] at home, and make return to their parents or grandparents [for all their care by contributing to their maintenance], for this is acceptable in the sight of God." (verse.4 Amplified Version). God acknowledges the roles parents play in bringing up their children and so requires the Christian youth not to forget such care and attention given to him or her during his/her infancy years. While it is not permitted for our parents to control our homes when we are married, it is certainly commanded that we include our parents and grandparents in our care list. This demand on us includes the care for our extended family members and other relatives. The idea of dumping our aged parents in Home Care Centers is anti-scripture. That attitude, if not necessitated by lack of the financial wherewithal, bothers on selfishness and ingratitude.

Continued on page 4

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:
we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

EMBASSY NEWS

We want to hear from you please contact us at:

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- **CHAB (Moose Jaw, SK) Radio AM800**
Tune in every Sunday morning at 7:30

Verse 8 Being able to financially cater for your immediate family is a proof of your faith in God. No rooms for financial parasites! Extending helps to your grandparents and extended family members is part of the Christian responsibilities. The implication is that, the Christian youth is expected to learn proper trades or wisely choose his/her career with future responsibilities in view. To make blind choices only to get stuck with whatever the society offers at one's later years is nothing but stupidity (foolishness). We were enjoined to be as wise as ants (Prov.6:6-8).

"Tell these things to the people so that they will do the right thing in their extended family. Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place" (1 Tim.5v8 Message Bible)

"If anyone fails to provide for his relatives, and especially for those of his own family, he has disowned the faith [by failing to accompany it with fruits] and is worse than an unbeliever [who performs his obligation in these matters]". (v.8 – Amplified Bible)

Verses 9-10 Faithfulness in marriage, benevolence, raising children (not necessarily your biological descents), hospitable, service in humility, etc are criteria for determining widows indeed. This is not just for widows but for every mother in the faith.

Verses 11-14 Younger widow and younger women should marry, bear children and guide the home. Why? Because of the adversary. There is no room for single parenthood by choice. If forced on the believer by inevitable circumstances, marriage should be desired (especially for the younger people). The culture that spurns marriage relationship is anti-Christianity. What does it mean to guide the home? Biblical submission to the husband is the key (Eph.5:22-28,33).

To be continued

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you live in White City or Regina and surrounding areas, please join us every Sunday at the Great Plains Auction building on Highway 1E. Service starts at 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAMS:

- Embassy House Fellowship every week at member's homes
- Monthly Fasting and prayer every first day of the month
- Monthly Bible Study every second Sunday of the month.
- Men's breakfast meeting every first Saturday of the month.
- Ladies of Ambassadors breakfast meeting every second Saturday of the month.
- Girls for Christ every second Saturday of the month.
- Princesses, every last

Saturday of the month.

- Night vigil prayer every second Friday of the month.
- Monthly Conference Call prayer from 8:30am-9:30am every last Saturday. Phone #: 1-866-296-5646 Password: 968806

ANNUAL PROGRAMS:

Princesses of the King's National Conference will be held in Regina from July 30 - August 1, 2010. Please plan to attend.

Ambassadors for Christ Annual Convention: September 17 - 19 2010.

Ambassadors for Christ Annual Retreat: November 7, 2010

All meetings (men's & women's breakfast, and youth's monthly meetings) are non-denominational. Therefore, come and fellowship with other brethren regardless of your church or denomination. Call (306) 347-3272 for details about any of the meetings mentioned above.

Unless otherwise stated, Bible passages are from New King James Version or New International Version

Important points to note for 2010

- No one knows what 2010 holds, but we know Him who holds the year.
- Remember God's faithfulness
- God did not forget you.

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A MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

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