

[17] *“But having come into¹ himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!’ [18a] ‘I will get up and go to my father....”*

[Luke 15:17-18a]

Today in our study of *“RECONCILIATION from the Parable of the Prodigal Son”* you will consider the second step to *RECONCILIATION* with God, which is RESOLUTION. When I think of making RESOLUTIONS, my thought automatically goes to those who make resolutions for the New Year. The problem is, for the majority of resolvers, as the days, weeks, and months go by, keeping New Year’s resolutions becomes less and less of a priority. A truth you need to recognize is that RESOLUTION without COMMITMENT to fulfill what you say you have *resolved* to do is not a RESOLUTION at all.

I, for one, see this in Psalms 116 where the psalmist resolved that he would call upon the LORD as long as he lived [Psalms 116:2a]! He did this because he believed the LORD would incline His ear to hear him [Psalms 116:2b]. Even though the psalmist saw himself as being encompassed by the *“cords of death”* and felt the *“terrors of Sheol”* coming upon him. Even though he says he *“found distress and sorrow”* [Psalms 116:3], he kept his *resolution* and *“called upon the name of the LORD,”* asking *“O LORD, I beseech You, save my life!”* [Psalms 116:4]. He trusted in God, because he knew the LORD God to be *GRACIOUS* and *RIGHTEOUS* and to be the God of *COMPASSION* [Psalms 116:5]!

I would like to believe that after the Prodigal came into his right mind that he also realized that his father was also a *GRACIOUS* and *RIGHTEOUS* father who was full of *COMPASSION*. Remembering that this parable is an earthly story with a Heavenly meaning, I must ask you, what type of father do you see the Father in Heaven being in your life? What is your understanding of Him? Do you see Him as did the psalmist as being a *GRACIOUS* and *RIGHTEOUS* LORD, a God of *COMPASSION*?

As you looked at Luke 15:18 did you pause and listen to what the Prodigal RESOLVED to do? He RESOLVED to *“GET UP and GO TO”* his *“father”*. As you will later see, the Prodigal’s father patiently awaited his son’s return home. This reminds me of what 2 Peter 3:9 teaches you. Which is that,

[9] *The LORD is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but IS PATIENT toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

Then the Holy Spirit moved Peter to speak of the end of this world when he says in 2 Peter 3:10,

[10] *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*

Peter is then moved in 2 Peter 3:11 to ask you a question. He asks,

[11] *Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, WHAT SORT of PEOPLE OUGHT YOU [RESOLVE] TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT and GODLINESS...?*

¹ “Into” is the Greek primary preposition εἰς (ace), Strong’s Greek dictionary preposition number 1519. It is pronounced by some as ‘ice’, however the εἰ diphthong should be pronounced as the “ei” in freight. Therefore εἰς should be pronounced ‘ace’. The primary meaning of ‘ace’ is motion to or toward and then entering “into” any place or thing. As used here it is moving toward Jesus Christ and then metaphorically entering into Him.

God in His *PATIENCE* is waiting for you to RESOLVE to draw nearer to Him. One reason for which He is doing this is found in Jeremiah 29:11-13, where the Lord God says to the exiled Hebrews then and you today,

^[11] “For I KNOW the PLANS that I HAVE FOR YOU,” declares the LORD, ‘PLANS for WELFARE and not for calamity TO GIVE YOU a FUTURE and a HOPE. ^[12] Then YOU WILL CALL UPON Me and COME and PRAY to Me, and I WILL LISTEN TO YOU. ^[13] And YOU WILL SEEK Me and FIND Me, WHEN YOU SEARCH FOR Me WITH ALL YOUR HEART.”

Please join me here tomorrow when we will consider the third upward step of *RECONCILIATION!*

Will you please now join with me in prayer?

Father God, the One Who desires that we would resolve to seek for You with *ALL* our heart. I come before you now with an offering of thanksgiving. I bring this offering of thanksgiving because even in our distresses and sorrows you ask us to trust in You. You desire that we keep our resolution to call upon Your name pleading with You to save our soul! I praise You again today that You are the God Who patiently awaits us to come into our right mind and repent where we need to repent. Teach us and strengthen our resolve to keep the resolutions we make to You. I pray and ask this in the Name and authority of Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT I DAILY NEED TO RESOLVE TO RETURN TO MY LORD GOD, KEEPING THE RESOLUTIONS I MAKE TO HIM! – tom