



GREAT CHAPTERS FOR GREATER LIVING: LUKE 15

“THE GIFTS OF THE FATHER”

LUKE 15: 22-24

THE ROBE

WHEN THE PRODIGAL SON WAS EMBRACED BY THE FATHER, THE NEED FOR A NEW ROBE WAS OBVIOUS BECAUSE THE SON WAS STILL DRESSED IN RAGS. HE STILL HAD THE APPEARANCE OF A KEEPER OF PIGS. THIS APPEARANCE WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A SON.

BUT IF THE SERVANTS ARE TO CLOTHE THE SON IN A BEAUTIFUL NEW GARMENT, THEY MUST OBVIOUSLY REMOVE THE OLD GARMENTS. WHEN THE OLD HAS BEEN STRIPPED AWAY THEN THE SON IS PREPARED TO WEAR THE NEW. THE TAKING OFF OF THE OLD, FILTHY GARMENTS IS A REMINDER THAT GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY FORGIVEN ALL OUR SINS. THE PUTTING ON OF A NEW ROBE IS A SIGN OF PUTTING ON THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AS A SON.

THE RING

THE SECOND GIFT THAT THE FATHER INSTRUCTED THE SERVANTS TO BRING WAS A RING. THE SIGNET RING HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE LIFE OF A FAMILY IN THAT DAY. IT WAS A SIGN OF SURE SONSHIP. WHEN THE FATHER INSTRUCTED THE SERVANTS TO PUT THE SIGNET RING ON HIS SON'S FINGER, HE WAS BESTOWING UPON THAT SON ALL THE RIGHTS OF SONSHIP. HE IS NOT COMING BACK AS SOME KIND OF SECOND-CLASS SON, BUT ONE WITH FULL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IS REALLY AWESOME. IT IS ONE OF THE WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE THAT HE TAKES US, WE WHO HAVE REBELLED AGAINST HIM, AND BESTOWS UPON US ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF SONSHIP!

THE SHOES

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IN THE BOY'S POVERTY HE HAD NO SHOES. SINCE HE HAD SLIPPED TO THE LEVEL OF A SLAVE, THIS IS NOT SURPRISING SINCE SLAVES DID NOT WEAR SHOES. ALL OF THE OUTWARD SIGNS OF HIS SONSHIP WERE GONE, SO THE COMMAND TO PUT SHOES ON HIS FEET INDICATED THAT HE WAS BEING FULLY RESTORED TO A PLACE OF SONSHIP.

THE SHOES WERE A SIGN OF A FREE MAN. IS THIS NOT WHAT GOD GIVES US IN JESUS CHRIST? WHEN HE FORGIVE US HE GIVES US A SPECIAL FREEDOM.

THE FATTED CALF

THE LAST GIFT THAT THE FATHER CALLED FOR WAS THE FATTED CALF. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A CALF WHICH HAD BEEN PENNED AND FED FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION. IT WAS A SYMBOL OF AN ESPECIALLY JOYFUL CELEBRATION.

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FEAST THAT FOLLOWED? THE SON WOULD BE POSITIONED RIGHT BY THE FATHER AT THE TABLE, WAITED ON BY THE SERVANTS, AND THE FATHER AND THE SON WOULD ENJOY A SPECIAL TIME OF COMMUNION AS THEY FEASTED TOGETHER. WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS GIFT? THE OBVIOUS SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS GIFT IS THE JOY OF COMMUNION WITH THE FATHER. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER GIVES US THE JOY OF SITTING AT THE TABLE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM. IT IS AN UNSPEAKABLE PRIVILEGE.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



APPLICATION

WHO RECEIVES THESE GIFTS? THE SON WHO HAS A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART, WHO IS READY TO SAY, "I HAVE SINNED." WHENEVER WE COME SEEKING FORGIVENESS WE RECEIVE MORE THAN WE SOUGHT. OUR FATHER IS JUST LIKE THE FATHER IN THIS STORY. HE NOT ONLY SAYS, "I FORGIVE YOU", BUT HE GIVES US THE ROBE, THE RING, THE SHOES, AND THE FATTED CALF. WE ARE SURPRISED AT SUCH THINGS. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS READY THIS MORNING TO DO MORE THAN FORGIVE US. HE IS READY TO ENRICH OUR LIVES WITH HIS SPECIAL GIFTS.