

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 31, 2019

Today many people are focused on themselves – they want what they want, when they want it. The younger son doesn't want to wait for his inheritance, he wants his share now so he can have fun and party with his friends. Once the money was gone, so were his friends. He was stuck in the muck and the mire, then he "came to his senses". He had a **change of heart**.

He realized how much better his life was in his father's household, and decided to go back home and ask to work for his father as a hired hand. This was a **conversion** – a willingness to change his behavior to reflect the change in his heart.

The final step in the process of reconciliation was confession. The younger son would tell his father that he had sinned and no longer deserved to be called his son.

God's ways are so much higher and better than our ways. For years I identified with the older son, who was upset that his father was celebrating the return of his brother by having a feast. He was resentful and self-righteous.

Our heavenly father watches over and lovingly waits for His children to return to Him. It was only after I became a mother that I understood the love of a parent for a child. Even if a child should stray from his faith, the parent continues to pray for and love the child, and long for his return. Like our heavenly father, we will rejoice when a son, who was lost, has been found.

During this Lenten season, we ask God to change our hearts, help us to change our behavior and confess our sins. When we do, God will rejoice. Let the celebration begin!

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