

The Wasteful Heir of Luke 15:11-19

4-09-17 AM

Christians are people with an inheritance from God (Ephesians 1:11-18). This inheritance came when we were adopted by Grace (Romans 8:16-17), and that adoption occurred when we were baptized into Christ and put on Christ (Galatians 3:26-27). This inheritance is eternal life at the resurrection, but there are benefits of this heir-ship even now. We are blessed with a church family (Ephesians 2:19), with the power of prayer (Proverbs 15:29), the confidence of needs being provided (Matthew 6:33), and the hope of the Scriptures (2 Corinthians 1:1-4), blessings that those who are not heirs do not have.

Most Christians are familiar with the parable of the prodigal son. But many do not know that the word Prodigal means wasteful. This son is meant to be about a Christians, one who has been saved but has fallen away. His great sin in the parable is being a wasteful heir of grace; his sin is against a father who obtained a precious inheritance. As the other brother says to the father: "he devoured your wealth".

This parable is meant for us to examine ourselves and ask: are we wasting the gift(s) of God, and have we lost our inheritance? To complete this examination let us consider the blessings we have from God.

Ability: God gives us abilities (talents) to serve Him (1 Cor. 12:4-12). Are we wasting those abilities? Consider the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:24-26. There the servant with a single talent wasted his talent by hiding it and not using it. The master proclaimed "you wicked and lazy servant". Do we use whatever gifts we have in service towards God?

Time: God blesses us with time. We are not certain how much time it might be (James 4:13-16), but we ought to be generous towards God with that time. In Luke 12:19-20 Jesus spoke of a man who thought he had plenty of time, but in fact his life was called on that very day. God was angry that this man intended to waste the gift of time on himself. Are we generous towards God with our time?

Opportunity: Opportunity is like the crossing of time and ability. It is the moment when, for whatever reason, we are able to serve God. In Esther 4:14 Esther had the opportunity to aid the Jews by speaking with the King, but she was afraid. Her uncle Mordecai rebuked her by pointing out that God would use something to accomplish His purpose, but Esther would suffer if she did not do her part. DO you make the most of every opportunity?

The best example of a wasteful heir in the Bible is Esau. In Genesis 25:33 he despised his inheritance when he traded it for a bowl of soup. When he realized that he did want it in Genesis 27:34, it was too late. In Hebrews 12:15-17 we are warned not to commit the sin of Esau with our own inheritance.

Hebrews 10:35-36 - Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised