

Mar 6, 2016

Slovak Catholic Parish



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*Vstanem, pôjdem k
svojmu otcovi a poviem
mu: Otče zhršil som
proti nebu i voči tebe.*

*I will get up and go to
my Father and shall
say to him: Father, I
have sinned against
heaven and against
you.*



Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

4. Pôstna Nedeľa.
4th Sunday of Lent.

***Skúste a predvedčte sa, aký dobrý je Pán.
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

Vetu o príklone Boha k hriešnikom „Tento prijíma hriešnikov a jedáva s nimi.“ vnímame rôzne. Buď sa tešíme, ak poznáme svoj hriech, alebo sa pohoršujeme, ak ešte svoju hriešnosť nepoznáme.

Je zvláštne, že sa Ježiš lepšie cíti medzi hriešníkmi ako medzi „zbožnými farizejmi“. Veď farizeji tvorili akúsi náboženskú elitu. Boli to ľudia pekných modlitieb a kázni, plní dobrých predsavzatí a vedeli aj čosi obetovať pre „Boha“. Boli to však zároveň ľudia, ktorí nechceli pochopiť, že aj ich život potrebuje korektúru a spásu z božej strany, že je takisto poznačený hriechom. Spásu chápali ako výsledok a odmenu za život podľa zákona.

Farizejstvo je premietnutím prvotného hriechu do náboženskej oblasti. Farizejstvo je ľudská snaha žiť svoju nábožnosť len čiste z vlastných síl a podľa seba a tým pádom len pre seba. Naša čiste ľudská snaha končí pri slušnom človeku, ktorý nerobí to, čo sa nepatrí. Ale vnútorne je rovnako hriešny ako hriešnik. Hriech nespočíva len v tom, že čosi konáme alebo nekonáme. Hriech je v tom, čo v sebe máme, lepšie povedané, čo v sebe nemáme. Hriech je v tom, že nemáme v srdci Boha. Hriech je v tom, čo sme. Naše zlé bytie, nezasi-ahnuté Kristom. Zlé sklony, nečisté myšlienky a predstavy sú dôsledkom nášho bezbožného bytia. Keby sme mali v srdci Boha, nepáchali by sme a nemali by sme hriech.

Preto nám všetkým Ježiš rozpráva podobenstvo, o marnotratnom synovi, ktoré ukazuje, ako zmýšľa o týchto skutočnostiach Boh. V tomto podobenstve nám Ježiš zjavuje Boha ako Spasiteľa. Boh je lekár a hriech je choroba. Hriešnik je chorý človek, stratený prípad. Hriešnikovi netreba závidieť ale pomáhať. A Boh chce pomôcť človeku, ak to človek dovolí, ak človek nechá Boha konať vo svojom srdci. Tvorcom ľudskej

dokonalosti je sám Boh. A On chce, aby sme všetci boli dokonalí, ale musíme Mu uveriť, že bez neho to nepôjde.

Dokiaľ človek nepozná svoju vlastnú hriešnosť, nepozná ani radosť z evanjelia. Zážitok vlastnej hriešnosti je cestou, na ktorej pocítíme bezmocnosť stať sa vlastnými silami lepšími.

Oplakávanie vlastnej hriešnosti je podľa duchovných otcov výrazom intenzívnej skúsenosti s Bohom. Tak napr. hovorí sv. Izák Sýrsky: „Kto pozná svoje hriechy, je väčší ako ten, kto svojou modlitbou vzkriesi mŕtveho. Kto hodinu plače a vzdychá nad sebou, je väčší ako ten, kto vyučuje celý svet. Ten, kto pozná svoju vlastnú slabosť, je väčší ako ten, kto videl anjelov. Kto v samote skrúšenosťou nasleduje Krista, je väčší ako ten, kto sa teší priazni plných kostolov.“

There are three characters that in today's parable Jesus is asking us to examine. How does each one of these characters mirror us?

The first is the younger son. The important thing we need to see is that when we walk away from God, we end up in the slop with the pigs. And we end up in a state of spiritual poverty... with an unrelieved hunger in our souls that all of the pleasures of this world cannot satisfy.

In order to recover and overcome our sins, we must admit that we were wrong. This is the hardest thing to do. Many people simply cannot admit that they've done anything wrong. And if they suspect that they're wrong, they redefine what they've done and present it in a way that's not sinful. It's called denial; all addicted people live in denial the way pigs live in slop.

In today's parable this younger son somehow came to his senses and began to recognize the truth. It was then, and only then, that he was

able to come back into touch with reality and recognize, that he could trust his father to forgive him, and that he needed to go and openly admit to his father that he was wrong and ask for his father's forgiveness. This required humility . . . along with faith, hope, and courage. It also required that he would have to overcome his Imperial Self's denial and surrender; he would have reject his own independence and accept dependence upon his father's love.

Do you realize all of this is required to make a good confession? Too many people are looking for cheap grace, and easy way of tossing off a superficial "I'm sorry" to God so that then they can return to their old ways.

Next, we need to pay attention to the elder brother, the one whose righteousness was cold, hard, and even bitter. Like many of the Pharisees who knew Jesus, they resented the generosity of God's love as it was manifested in the life and attitudes of Jesus. They resented his generosity in forgiving sinners.

But Jesus only forgave those who were truly penitent, those who genuinely admitted that they needed to trust God's merciful forgiveness, those who overcame their independence, overcame their denial and then surrendered to God's love.

Finally, we need to see ourselves in the attitude and love of the father. What sort of conditions do we place on our willingness to forgive others? So we need to see our selves in the prodigal son; we need to see our selves in the elder brother, but most of all we need to see our selves in the father. We need to measure the capacities in our hearts and souls to be Godlike in our love, compassion, care and concern in loving others. The parable, you see, is more about the father than it is about the prodigal son.

Bulletin Announcements

***March 6 - 4th Sunday of Lent** "The kingdom of Christ is tension towards the definitive victory of Merciful Love, towards the eschatological fullness of good and grace, of salvation and life. This fullness has its beginning on earth in the cross and the resurrection." - St. John Paul the Great

***The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius** The Jesuit Spirituality Apostolate of Vancouver offers the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Daily Life retreat for persons who wish to grow spiritually, learn how to discern Christ's voice more clearly in life, and serve God with greater love. This program has 2 parts. Part 1 involves a weekly evening lecture/retreat practicum on Tuesdays (May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31), from 7-9pm and June 7 and an all-day retreat on Saturday, May 7 (venue TBA), with weekly spiritual direction. Part 1 is a prerequisite for Part 2, the Spiritual Exercises proper, which includes monthly evening lecture from October-April and weekly spiritual direction. Each part of the retreat requires 1.25 hours of daily prayer and emotional and psychological maturity. All evening lectures at St. Mark's Parish and College, Vancouver. Cost: \$100 registration fee for Parts 1 & 2 (bursaries available). To request an application, please contact the JSAV coordinator at coordinator@jsav.ca or 778-806-4378. Applications accepted on first-come, first served basis. Deadline March 31. Space is limited. www.jsav.ca

***The Four Signs: Incredible Possibilities for Your Life and Parish** Dr. Allen Hunt serves alongside Matthew Kelly as the Vice-President of Strategy and Content at the Dynamic Institute and will present at Good Shepherd Church on Saturday, April 30. A nationally known speaker and best-selling author, Dr. Allen will speak on the book entitled "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" written by Matthew Kelly. The four signs of a Dynamic Catholic are: Prayer, Study, Generosity and Evangelization. Dr. Allen will encourage attendees to engage in the 'Four Signs'. Tickets: \$25 each and available at the parish office at 604-531-5739. This will definitely be a sell-out event, so purchase your tickets early!

***Archdiocesan Jubilee Year of Mercy event: The Hurts We Carry** Join us Sunday, April 3, from 1-4 pm at St. Matthew's Church in Surrey on Divine Mercy Sunday. This Jubilee Year of Mercy event is for all families – children, parents, grandparents. It's an invitation to experience the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and to receive God's Mercy as you bring your challenges and struggles before Him. More details to follow. rcav.org/year-of-mercy/

***Adoration** - spend a blessed hour with Jesus on Thursdays at our church from 7:15pm - 8:15pm.

Sunday's Collection from the Last Week

Our Weekly Goal	\$1,500
Sunday's Collection	\$1,087
Building Fund	\$429

Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

Modlitba príhovoru v nedeľu v našom kostole od 12:30pm do 1:30pm.

Prayer Ministry every Sunday in our church from 12:30pm to 1:30pm until notified.

Sun 6 9:00am	4th Sunday of Lent; Jos 5:9a,10-12; 2Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3,11-32	Za zdravie a dar viery pre Shana	Janka
Sun 6 11:00am	4. Pôstna Nedeľa; Joz 5:9a,10-12; 2Kor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3,11-32	Za zdravie a Božie požehnanie pre Luboša	Brat s rodinou
Mon 7 8:00am	St. Perpetua and St. Felicity; Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54	+ Ana Shelling	Fr. Juraj
Tue 8 8:00am	St. John of God; Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16	+ Carmelita R. Consunji	Family Javier
Wed 9 8:00am	St. Frances of Rome; Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:16-30;	Blessing for frather Nicolas and his parishioners	St. Cyril and Methodius parishioner
Thu 10 8:00am	Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:18,31-47	For benefactors and parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Fri 11 8:00am	Wis 2:1a,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30	+ Eva Szabová	Dcéra s rodinou
Fri 11 7:30pm	Krížová cesta + svätá omša	+ Mike Krupa	Rodina Krupová
Sat 12 9:00am	Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53	+ Peter Shelling	Ed Starick
Sun 13 9:00am	5th Sunday of Lent; Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 13 11:00am	5. Pôstna Nedeľa; Iz 43:16-21; Flp 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11	+ Dušan Mrenica	Adrian