

“I can see Clearly Now!” #3

Isaiah 58: 8-11 [KJ]

[8] Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

[9] Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, “Here I am”.

If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

[10] And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:

[11] And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

- * Isaiah 58 is a charge from the Lord to share to those who are in need**
- * Its about fasting**
- * But its much more than about the right way and wrong ways to fast**
- * True worship is more than religious ritual, going to the Temple every day, fasting, and listening to Scripture readings.**
- * They were missing the point of a living, vital relationship with God**
- * The Lord does not want us acting pious when we have un-forgiven sin in our hearts and performing sinful practices with our hands, simply doing things we should not be doing.**
- * More important is that when we get things right in our lives with the Lord, we will do His Ways and then we will have genuine compassion for the poor, the helpless and the oppressed.**
- * I truly believe the spirit of oppression, the spirit of destitution, the spirit of helplessness sits in and become s strongholds many times because of the spirit of religion has masked sin.**

We cannot be saved by works or service without Faith in Jesus Christ

- * But our faith lacks sincerity if it does not reach out to others**
- * We must come to ourselves**
- * Pleasing God is more than what we don't eat or don't do, it is what we do for Him and for others in HIS NAME.**

2.

Isaiah 58: 6-12 [Message]

6-9" This is *the kind of fast day* I'm after:

To break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debt's.

What I'm interested in seeing *you do is:*

Sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on, and *your lives will turn around at once.*

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.

You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places.

9-12" If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,

Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.

I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places— firm muscles, strong bones.

You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

13-14" If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don't use my holy day for personal advantage, If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God's holy day as a celebration,

If you honor it by refusing 'business as usual,' making money, running here and there— Then you'll be free to enjoy God! Oh, I'll make you ride high and soar above it all.

I'll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob."

Yes! God says so!

3.

* The Day of Sabbath

* Sabbath Together

* Sabbath is our day to rest together in the Lords presence, and reflect upon Him without the stress of our everyday life

Isaiah 58: 9

[9] Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, "Here I am".

* The Lord seems to put Himself at the disposal of His people, saying to them, "Here I am"

As much as to say

"What have you to say to me?"

* What can I do for you?

* I am waiting to bless you."

* How can we hesitate to draw near?

* God is ready and quick to forgive, to bless, to comfort, to help, to quicken, to deliver.

Let it be the main point with us to get near to God

If we seek the Lord He will continue to come nearer and yet nearer to us by fuller and more joyful fellowship

[Example]

* Many of us are like the prodigal son.

[The Son who left his father and home]

When he left home it did not mean the father stopped loving him.

* While he was away the father's love never changed.

What had changed was that the young man had removed himself from the place of blessing and from the environment of the father's love.

Luke 15: 11-13 [KJ]

"11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

4.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living”

The Parable of the Prodigal Son: The Lost Son

Prodigal

Meaning: Spending money or Resources freely or recklessly wastefully / extravagantly

[Note: Prodigal habits die hard]

Means: A person who leaves home and behaves in such a way – **BUT later REPENTS or simply makes a repentant return.**

Latin: Prodigus “Lavish”

The Prodigal the youngest son of two said “Give Me” the portion of goods or my inheritance

[note: in essence he was saying give me what I deserve.

* He left with all his stuff to journey INTO a far country and **at that place** the Bible tells us **HE WASTED HIS SUBSTANCE** with his ungodly life style

The Prodigal said: “Give Me my Inheritance”

Inheritance

Meaning: A thing that is Inherited

* The Action of Inheriting

[Example: The Inheritance of traits]

* **Anglo –French word meaning: “Being Admitted a Heir”**

* Means becoming an Inheritor

5.

Inherit

Greek Means: *“Portion”* it Means: *“Lot”*

Means: “Destiny in my part”

Means: “In regard to this”

Means: “In this respect”

Means: “Give me my part due or assigned to me”

To Inherit

* To Receive money, property, or to receive a title

* To receive as an heir – AT THE DEATH OF THE PREVIOUS HOLDER [Is essence father you are dead to me]

* To derive [a quality, characteristic] Genetically from one’s parents or ancestors

* To receive or be left with [a situation or object] from a predecessor or from an owner

* To come into possession, ownership of belongings from someone

* To come into possession as a right

Example: Master what must I do to inherit eternal life?

* **Latin: “Appoint as Heir”**

The Prodigal Son said:

* Give me my Inheritance

* Give me my Independence

Simply you need to finance my decision with something I am not supposed to receive until your passing puts my inheritance rightly in my hands – until you have imparted that which has a tie to my destiny in life. The son disregarded his father’s authority as head of the family because he initiated the division of the estate.

There is a time that only Godly intervention can lead us, when a Prodigal comes forth we must understand the Spirit that holds captive the Prodigal

6.

The Result

Luke 15: 13 [KJ]

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living”

“He gathered all and went into a far country”

Country

* **Meaning:** *The space lying between two places or the space lying between two limits*

* **Country:** Land which is ploughed: The Land which is cultivated

* **Country means:** The ground

Note: Ever heard the saying *“They are sowing their wild oats?”*

* If we write it off to that – what we are saying is that they are on the fence, they are in a very needy place – the place that lays between – it is what the Lord says is luke warm not all the way in but not all the way out!

* This is when prayer must be stepped up to intercession – that standing in for – that taking authority prayer time.

The Bible tells us the Prodigal called for his inheritance so he could sow it in a far country [the place lying between]

The Bible tells us this young son went into the far country wasted his substance with riotous living [wild living]

Wasted

* **Means:** To scatter abroad, to disperse

* **Means:** *“Winnow”*

7.

Winnow

- * **Means:** To blow a current of air through Grain or to hit with a blow in order to remove the chaff [the shell, the husk]
- * **Chaff:** The husk on grain
- * **Winnow:** The process to find or to identify a valuable or wasteful part of something

Example

In the midst of confusing signals it is difficult but not impossible to winnow out the truth.

Winnow

Guidelines set that help winnow out – to identify valued useful from the un-useful

Winnow

Old English-Word meaning: *“WIND”*

Example

Have you ever heard the saying *“Sowing to the Wind?”*
Simply what they are *“sowing will be winnowed”*

A Blast of wind or hit by a blow to remove the chaff
Grain must be exposed to winnowing

Luke 15: 13 [KJ]

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living”

The Bible tells us that the Prodigal *“wasted his substance”*

Substance

* **Meaning:** What one has as in property, possessions, estate

The Prodigal let his fathers side but the father never stopped loving him.

8.

The Bible tells us that this son met the day when he suffered great need.

- * He became destitute
- * He suffered disaster
- * He suffered humiliation
- * He suffered hunger
- * He suffered the loss of friends

[The Bible tells us that *“no man gave unto him”* v:16]

At that point the Bible tells us:

Luke 16: 17 [KJ]

“17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee”

Repentance is the key to open our eyes to see God Clearly

- * He came to his senses – the seed planted and watered by Dad suddenly had been winnowed.
- * He immediately thought of his father and his fathers enormous provision

He got up and returned to his father

- * His situation became very clear His eyes were opened
- * He repented - He turned away from his sinful life
- * He confessed his sins

He was accepted when he returned to his father

- * The father accepted him
- * The father fed him and celebrated his return
- * Celebrated his repentance – his changed life [not just a sorry I messed up – or Lets make a deal- but repentance was celebrated]
- * The father proclaimed his sons new life

9.

[Luke 15: 24](#) [KJ]

“For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found and they began to merry” [simply to celebrate]

Conclusion

- * Today let's break the Prodigal Spirit
- * Today let's make it right with Fathers
- * Today let's make it right with our Heavenly Father
- * When we get our Fatherly Figure Right – When we come back to Dad – that which was dead comes alive again!
- * Lost things are found
- * Sadness becomes Celebration!