

Reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15)



Caillou

We often associate ourselves with the prodigal son,
As we do indeed sin continuously,
Again and again,
Breaking the hearts of others...
Yet we desperately need healing,
And are always in need to return home,
In the embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Although, unknowingly,
We are often the older brother,
“Why does this happen to me?”
“What have I done wrong?”
“This is not fair to me!”
Ever so self-righteous,
Filled with jealousy.
We seldom acknowledge it,
But honestly,
Look within our hearts. Deep within.
We are broken,
Just like the older brother.

When we are broken,
Our capacity to Love dwindles.
But look!
Jesus showed us the Way God Loves.
He Loves us regardless of our actions.
Just as the Father

Embraced and kissed His son
Before he even said a word.
It doesn't matter what we do or say.
God has Loved us first.

It is EXACTLY because
God has Loved us first,
That we are able to repent,
And return to Him, in Love,
Not because we have no choice,
But because He Loved us first.

This is God's radical way to Love.
This is what He asks us to do;
This is our vocation.
To Love like the Father,
To forgive and embrace
Without any prerequisites.
To Love selflessly, purely,
No more “Yes, but”
Without strings attached.
This is the Love of God.

We are often the prodigal son,
But we are called to become the Father.
To Love like the Father.

* * * * *

Praise and Thanks

Patricia

Praise be to God for the unforgettable experience in WCCCLC!!

Attending this annual Catholic living camp has been an important part of my university life beginning from the year of Jubilee. The work of the Holy Spirit began and changed me in deeper ways as I said “Yes” to God for attending the first year and helping out in choir and piano-playing.

From my own experience, Praise-and-Worship and Taize prayer sessions are the highlights of the camp, because not only can I listen to the inspiring talks from various speakers, but I am also able to have dialogue with God as He sends the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me through community prayers and the spiritual ambiance that resonates within the camp. I think that the uniqueness of this camp is the way it digs into the roots of Chinese culture. Being exposed to poems, writings, as well as songs written in Chinese, I am able to take back home what I learned and share with my parents the joy that I experienced at camp.

WCCCLC has impacted me by setting me onto a deeper journey with God, as well as with my community of friends (those who share laughter and bear my weaknesses, fear, and anxiety as a young adult, through rain and shine). There's nothing that can pull us apart, because we are companions and God is the Father, Healer, and Teacher. It's from God's blessings that no matter how many times I trip and fall, there will always be a voice in my heart to encourage me. Despite being a witness to heartbreaking separations, human sickness, and death, with the support and care from my dear friends known from WCCCLC, I'm able to remain in love with God and make his gospel a reality that defeats superficial fads and trickery in the world that I inhabit.

By sharing a common camping experience in WCCCLC, we are ignited by God's love so that we bring the fire with us back home and share it with others in the church groups that we belong to.

I pray that more young adults will come to experience God through WCCCLC. May the Holy Spirit continue to thrive in the hearts of our many campers so we can continue to spread God's word. Amen.