



“I will arise and go to my father...”
– Luke 15:18

Seeking Bondage, Finding Freedom

3rd Sunday of the Holy Great Fast

Introduction

- “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1)

In the Father's House

1. There were firm boundaries
2. All his needs were provided for
3. Respected his freedom to choose
 - “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...” (Deut. 30:19)
 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (Jam. 4:8)

Outside the Father's House

1. No restrictions

- The restrictions in his father's house were for his protection
- “Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.” (Ps. 119:92)

2. Promise of pleasure and happiness

- “A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.” (Prov. 27:7)

Outside the Father's House

3. Conditional Acceptance

- Friends of the world are interested in your possessions, but friends of God are interested in you.
- “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.” (2 Cor. 12:15)

Outside the Father's House

4. Humiliation

- *“The longer we stay in hell, the more we become attached to it.”*
(CS Lewis)

5. Isolation

- *“...and no one gave him anything.”* (Lk. 15: 16)
- Anything that leads you to isolation or to keep you from the fellowship of the believers (the church) is from the enemy.

Return to the Father's House

1. Forgiveness/Compassion
2. Restoration
3. Joy
 - The joy of the father
 - The joy of the community

Conclusion

Outside the Father's house

- No restrictions
- Promise of Pleasure and happiness
- Conditional Acceptance
- Humiliation
- Isolation

Inside the Father's house

- There were firm boundaries
- All his needs were provided for
- Respect his freedom to choose
- Forgiveness/Compassion
- Restoration
- Joy

To live in bondage or freedom is now a choice?