

Lesson #5: Supplement



Story on our need for a loving Father

[Ernest Hemmingway tells a story of a young Spanish man named Paco who left his father to live a life of sin in the capital city, Madrid. After several months and fearing the worst for his son, the father went to Madrid in search of Paco. He took out an advertisement in the newspaper, which said, "Paco meet me at Hotel Montana noon Tuesday. All is forgiven. Papa." The next Tuesday the father went to the hotel hoping to find his son waiting for him. When he turned the corner and the hotel came in to view, he saw a great crowd of 800 men gathered around the hotel. They were all named Paco. There is something in all of us that needs the love and acceptance of a father.]

Parable of the Father and two sons

[Before He left the earth, Jesus told a story to his followers about a father and his two sons. The younger one said to his father one day, "Father, give me my share of the inheritance." So the father divided his property and gave half to the younger son. The younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country, bringing shame to his father. There the younger son wasted all his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, he began to be in need. So he went and got a lowly job feeding pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. One day he came to his senses. He said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'" So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate. But the older son became angry and refused to go into the celebration, bringing shame to his father. The father went out to him and the older son said, "All these years I have obeyed you, but you never threw me a party. But when this son of yours comes home after wasting your money, you kill the fattened calf for him." Then the father said, "You are always with me and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate because this brother of yours was lost and now is found." Then Jesus ended this story.]