

4th Sunday of Lent Year C

Today we have the story of the Prodigal Son

What does “prodigal mean”? To be extravagant, spendthrift, excessive

SO – we have the Prodigal Son

But Jesus is describing the Kingdom of God ~ PRODIGAL FATHER

It is the FATHER that’s extravagant - with His love

But to understand it we need to put it in context

Pharisee criticize Jesus for eating with Sinners

1. Jesus responds with 3 parables

a. Lost Sheep – leaving the 99 for the 1

These were farmers who knew you didn’t do this

BUT, the Kingdom of God IS like this

In the Kingdom of God the Good Shepherd DOES seek the lost

b. Lost Coin – sweeping the whole house for it

Lost Coin and Lost Sheep speak of the *seeking love of God*

Calling us -Yearning for us, seeking

c. Prodigal is different – it shows the waiting love of God

Father waits for the son to choose to return

Then RUNS to meet him

2. When Jews established covenant with each other they did three things

SCAR NAME COAT

Prodigal Father covers His son with His best cloak – covenant

But also RING (heir) and SHOES (son-ship)

- Whenever you see my son, see me

- When we talk of salvation we say we are covered by the blood of Jesus

(Just like the Father’s cloak)

- Jesus points to us and says to His Father – whenever you see them, see me.

o Whenever you see Frank, see me

o Whenever you see Heather, Fr. Bob, ... see me

1st Reading – Joshua describes Israel entering the Promised Land. (ON PASSOVER)

Exodus began on PASSOVER –

Covered by the blood of the lamb they were protected from death.

In the 1st reading they are told, while in the Promised Land, recall where you came from.

Same with us LENT is a time to recall we are covered by the blood of the lamb

Like the prodigal son – we have sinned

Like the prodigal son – our Father waits – yearning for us to repent

He’s waiting with the RING, with new shoes, but He doesn’t need a cloak.

We are already covered with the blood

Blood that leads to an empty tomb