**Title: Repetition, a Power of Father’s Love**

**Text: Luke 15:15-20; Romans 8:12-17**

**Today is Father’s Day we honor our fathers. We know the story about Father’s Day.**

**Ex) In 1910 there was a lady named Senora Dodd in Spokane, Washington. She was sitting in a church service on Mother's Day, and as she was listening to a sermon about mothers, she thought about her father.**

**Her father was a Civil War veteran. Her mom had died early in life so for all of the years of her life and the years of her siblings, they had been brought up by their father. He was a very devout and godly man. She thought it would be a wonderful thing to have a special time to honor her father and all fathers. Because he was born in the month of June, she was able to have a special day honoring her father on the third Sunday of June in 1910 in Spokane, Washington. Many years later, 56 years later, in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed the proclamation declaring that the third Sunday in June would be set aside as Father's Day, a day when we would recognize and honor and pay tribute to our earthly fathers.**

**It’s interesting that Jesus referred to God as “My Father” and ”Our Father” fifty-three times in the Gospels. But, when Jesus talked about the Father, He did not just call Him “My Father.” He also called God “Our Father” twenty-one times in the Gospels. Thus, Jesus clearly shows us that those who believe in Jesus share the same relationship with God in Heaven. It means that faith is a personal relationship, profound relationship, and permanent relationship. The title “our Father” speaks of a very personal relationship. When an unbeliever comes to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is “born again.” At that instant, that person is brought into a very personal relationship with the God of the universe.**

**In fact, the Jews had no concept of God as a “Father.” They saw Him as Jehovah, the transcendent God. That’s why they named God according to the specific and various circumstances.**

**For instance, if they had a need in their life, they would call on "Jehovah-jireh", "The Lord will provide." If they were anxious, they would call on "Jehovah-shalom", "The Lord our peace." If they were lonely, or afraid, they might call on "Jehovah-shammah", "The Lord is there." If they need leadership, they would call on "Jehovah-rohi", "The Lord our Shepherd." If they were sick, they would call on "Jehovah-rapha", "The Lord our healer." And there are literally dozens more.**

**So, when Jesus arrived calling God “Father”, it was a totally new, challenging and revolutionary concept because they could never have thought of God in that intimate perspective. That’s why it even angered the Pharisees, the teachers, the priests and that kind of leadership in Israel.**

**However, for those who are in Jesus, there is a different name that we can use to speak to God. This name was revealed to the disciples in "The Lord's Prayer", the prayer Jesus taught us. What words do the prayer begins with? “Our Father”**

**Imagine that. Here, the disciples, who have witnessed the amazing prayer life of Jesus, and who want the same access to God to know and learn how to pray. We can imagine them waiting to hear which name He would give them to use in their prayers.**

**And, imagine their surprise when Jesus spoke the word “Father”, which was even the first beginning word of the prayer. The more surprising or even shocking word Jesus used was the Aramaic word “abba”, which is translated to the English word “daddy”.**

**A point is that Jesus wanted us to come closer to God giving our true heart and true life not as a slave but as a child. To explain this more detail and clearly, Apostle Paul used a legal term, “heir”. The word, heir, does not simply mean a child of father. Rather, it is a term emphasizing an aspect of inheritance. It means that you are God’s child who is qualified to have, share and enjoy what God your Father owns.**

**Our Father God is the everlasting God. It means that what He owns will be everlasting, too. When God adopted us as His children and into His family, He did not do it just for a while or during a limited time. He did it for all eternity.**

**It’s interesting to know a cultural background about adopting a child at the time of Apostle Paul. Adoption could not be undone. A man had the right to disown his natural children; but an adopted child was a child for life. He or she could never be disowned by the father.**

**That adoption system was maybe something very helpful and inspiring for Apostle Paul who tried to explain the relationship between God and His people. And, this is the same guarantee that we have today. What God does when He saves a soul is a forever work in a permanent relationship.**

**The main message of “A Parable of a Prodigal Son” is what love is, what father’s love is, and what our Father God’s love is. The v. 20 is giving a description about the father’s love. “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.”**

**Notice the words, “But while he was still a long way off, his father…” What? He recognized him to be his son as soon as saw him even though they were still distant to each other. It means that the father had continued to get outside there almost every day to see if his son would be coming to him or home. The love in the father’s heart drove him to do that.**

**Love is not something that is ended up with once. Love is repetition. It’s not a meaningless or aimless, but living repetition. That repetition of love is your faithfulness which is life bearing another life. The 1 Corinthians 13, which is called the chapter of love, says the love like this: “It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”**

**Apostle Paul put the word, “always”, even four times to explain love. He is talking about a fact of love: Love is something that should be tried again and again, over and over even though you fail to love others. He is telling us to continually strive to love.**

**Physical training is actually repetition. So is the spiritual training. You constantly worship God, pray to God, read and listen to God’s word, and try to follow Jesus in your real life. You can fail, but you try again. You continue to repeat it. Why? Because that’s faith, that’s power of life, and that’s power of love to God.**

**As if the power of love in the father continued to make him go outside to see and wait for his son every day, the power of love we have in our heart continues to drive us to go about God through worship service, prayer, service, commitment, fellowship, etc.**

**In a sense, faith is actually based on repetition. And there is life in there making you nurtured and strengthened. Think about God who constantly forgives our sins. If he says to us, “I’ll forgive your sin only today. I’m not going to be patient and to forgive your sins any more from tomorrow. Today is the last day when I forgive you.” It’s as good as a sentence of death for us.**

**But who is God? The Bible says God as the God who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love waiting for the sinners patiently. That’s why Jesus said, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times.” It’s about a story of forgiveness. Jesus was teaching a lesson of forgiveness to the disciples. Then, Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”**

**The number “7” was a number of perfection and completion for the Jews. So, the seven times means the most number of times Peter himself or other people can forgive and be patient of sin as much as they can.**

**But Jesus said, “not seven times, but seventy seven times.” It means that actually there is no limited line for forgiveness in God’s love as if God is so. God loves us not only with thinking and speaking. He does the things actual for us consistently and continuously.**

**Video watching – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKNfv8ur1Bc**

**Love is not filled with or fulfilled with one kill or one time giving because love is relationship of person to person. Love is not only thinking or speaking, but also doing something or anything you can do with actual act.**

**Look at the father of a prodigal son. He didn’t do many or great things. He just got outside. He just saw and checked if his son came home. That’s all. However, he did it again and again, over and over, every day at the same place.**

**God is faithful to us. He repeatedly forgives our sins, accepts our weaknesses and infirmities, and prepares or provides for our needs and those of the family every day. If I’m supposed to keep repeating the same thing every day, I’ll be frustrated with that helpless and fruitless repetition.**

**But God didn’t give up, and still now and forever in the future. Our God, Father wants you, expects you to forgive, accept, love and serve others in holy repetition, living repetition, and fruit bearing repetition. It’s your faithfulness coming from our Father God’s faithfulness. And this is our blessed relationship with God and our blessing relationship with one another. Amen.**