

Eritrean Catholic Gheez-Rite Chaplaincy (ECGRC)

St. Francis Of Assisi R C Church
Pottery Lane
London, W11 4NQ

The Resurrection according to Luke 15

(Eyasu Andemariam)

In Luke 15 Jesus tells the famous parable about the prodigal son. This story about the prodigal son sums up the set of truths that make up our Christian faith that says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16). The story is very simple and easy to comprehend for a lay person while at the same time full of profound revelations about God the father. May be it deserves an “All-time Best Story” award in the Oscars to say the least.

The story is about the son of a rich man who was dead and came back to life. “For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” (Verse 24). The son was dead in the spirit and separated from his father's house for good. He has taken all his inheritance long before its due time not to come back again to his father's house. He squandered his inheritance (may be millions of dollars) in wild living. “This son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes...” (30).

God our father always wants to give us life. “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10). In this story of the lost son, we learn that God wants to give us back what we have lost with our sins. David have witnessed this truth long time ago when he says in Psalm 63:3 “Because your love is better than life”. God not only shows His love by giving us life but also He goes an extra mile to restore our lost lives by forgiving our sins and give our lives and inheritance back. The father is right to say that his son was dead. “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23). The father resurrected him from his death by receiving him back into His house and transforming him into a new form of life after resurrection in the spirit.

We are about to celebrate Easter in the coming few days. As we all know, Easter is the time Jesus conquered death and rose up from the dead. Jesus did this act for us. “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Romans 4:25). Dear reader, I would like to invite you to see Jesus' resurrection in light with the resurrection of the lost son. This lost son represents each one of us. He was lost and separated from his father and so often are we. Jesus is inviting us to follow the example of the lost son, to come back to our senses and say “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” (17-20).

The story ends beautifully. The father never even waited for his son to list all his wrong doings. “He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Isn't that wonderful!!! He never stops there. He went an extra mile to celebrate the occasion. “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

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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."

This is the true spirit of resurrection. **MY SON WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE AGAIN; HE WAS LOST AND IS FOUND.** Let's rise up and go back to our father's house and taste the resurrection in a deeper way. That is where we belong as Saint Augustine said long time ago "Our hearts belong to you". Yes! Our hearts belong to God the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and we don't have rest until we let ourselves be the temple of the Holy Trinity.

God bless you,
Eyasu Andemariam (South Africa)