

Y MAB HYNAF COLLEDIG.

Emyn: 682 *'Pererin wyf mewn anial dir.'*

Darlleniad: Luc 15:11-32.

A. DICTER Y MAB HYNAF.

Pan wnaeth y mab hynaf dychwelyd o'r caeau a darganfod bod parti wedi ei drefnu i'w frawd afradlon roedd yn ddig. *'Digiodd ef, a gwrthod mynd i mewn,'* 28.

Pam? *'Yr holl flynyddoedd hyn bûm yn was bach iti, heb anufuddhau erioed i'th orchmynion. Ni roddaist erioed i mi gymaint â myn gafr, imi gael gwledda gyda'm cyfeillion,'* 29.

i) Gwas Bach: Teimlai mai gwas bach ydoedd i'w dad a bod ei lafur iddo yn fwy o ddyletswydd na llafur cariad. Dyletswydd ac nid gweithred o gariad oedd addoliad y Phariseaid. **Beth am ein gwasanaeth a'n haddoliad i Dduw?** Ai baich neu lawenydd ydyw?

ii) Gwas Ufudd: Nid ydyw wedi anufuddhau i'w dad. Trwy aros adref, mae wedi gweithio'n gyson a chadw gofynion ei dad. Credai'r Phariseaid eu bod yn cadw holl Gyfraith Duw a byw'n barchus. Credant y buasant yn cyrraedd y nef trwy ymdrechion dynol. Ceir pobl heddiw sy'n meddwl eu bod yn medru gweithio eu ffordd i'r nef!

iii) Haeddiant Gwas: Credai'r mab hynaf, oherwydd iddo

fyw'n barchus ei bod yn haeddu ei wobrwyo. Nid ydoedd byth wedi cael parti gyda'i ffrindiau. Nid ein haeddiant yw'r nefoedd ond rhodd i'w dderbyn!

B. BALCHDER Y MAB HYNAF.

Roedd drwg y mab lleiaf yn amlwg ond beth oedd drwg y mab hynaf. **Pam na wnaeth fynd i mewn i wledd ei dad?**

i) Balchder: Beth oedd y mab hynaf eisiau yn fwy na dim? Yn debyg i'w frawd llai, eiddo ei dad a rheoli ei fywyd ei hun. Beth oedd nodweddion bywyd y Phariseaid? Credant eu bod yn byw bywydau ffyddlon i Dduw, trwy gadw'r gorchmynion a byw'n barchus. Ar sail hyn roeddent yn sicr y buasant yn cael mynd i'r nef – dyna'u balchder! Ceir pobl heddiw sy'n credu oherwydd iddynt fyw bywydau da a pharchus bod rheidrwydd ar Dduw i'w bendithio. Nid felly yw perthynas â Duw. ii) Hunan gyfiawn: Mor barod oedd y mab hynaf i nodi drwg ei frawd. *'Dy fab sydd wedi difa dy eiddo gyda phuteiniaid,'* 30. Nid ydoedd yn gweld drwg ei hun – dicter a balchder. Nid ydyw chwaith yn deall trugaredd a maddeuant, a ddangoswyd gan ei dad tuag at ei frawd. Roedd y Phariseaid yn debyg gan nad oeddent hwythau'n barod i gydnabod eu pechod na'u hangen am drugaredd a maddeuant Iesu Grist. Credant eu bod yn haeddu bendithion Duw!

C. YMATEB Y TAD.

Mae'r tad yn ymbil ar ei fab hynaf i ddod i mewn i'r wledd. *“Fy mhlentyn, yr wyt ti bob amser gyda mi, ac y mae'r cwbl sydd gennyf yn eiddo i ti,”* 31. Ond mae rhaid iddo ef ddarostwng a derbyn y gwahoddiad.

i) *‘Yr wyt ti bob amser gyda mi.’* Roedd y tad yno i'w fab, mewn caledi bywyd, pe bai'n syrthio i ddrwg neu pe bai'n colli pob dim – buasai'n profi o drugaredd ei dad.

ii) *‘Y mae'r cwbl sydd gennyf yn eiddo i ti.’* Er i'w frawd afradlon dychwelyd, ni fuasai'r mab hynaf ar ei golled. Cymaint yw gras Duw mae Ei drugaredd yn ddigonol i bawb sy'n galw arno – ie, i ninnau hefyd.

iii) *‘Yr oedd yn rhaid gwledda a llawenhau.’* Pan mae rhywrai yn cyffesu eu beiau, edifarhau o'u pechodau a throi at Iesu, mae bob amser yn destun llawenydd. Dyma wna'r angylion a Duw ei hun, pan wna person gredu yn Iesu.

Beth yw ein hymateb i wahoddiad Duw i ddod ato Ef ac i brofi o'i drugaredd? A ydym fel y mab hynaf, yn byw'n barchus a chrefyddol, ond heb wir garu Duw? O ganlyniad mae ein haddoliad a'n gwasanaeth i Dduw yn faich ac nid yn weithred o gariad. A ydym yn llawn balchder, yn ceisio gweithio ein ffordd i'r nef, gan gredu y bydd rhaid i Dduw ein gwobrwyo am fyw bywydau da a pharchus? A wnawn

gredu mai gwobr neu haeddiant yw bywyd tragwyddol neu rodd o Dduw grasol? Neu ydym fel y mab lleiaf, wedi byw'n afradlon a throi cefn ar Dduw ond wedi troi'n ôl ato? Neu efallai i ni fyw'n gymharol barchus a chrefyddol, **ond** wedi cydnabod ein hangen o drugaredd Duw ac mewn edifeirwch wedi troi at Iesu? **Beth yw ein hymateb i Iesu?**

Gweddi: O Dduw Dad, diolch dy fod fel y tad yn y ddameg yn llawn cariad a thrugaredd. Rydym fel pobl wedi gwneud a dweud pethau na ddylwn, tro ar ôl tro, ac rwyf Ti wedi ein derbyn yn ôl, ond i ni edifarhau o'n drwg. Mae'r pandemig wedi bod yn hir ac fel llawer rydym yn dyheu am ddychwelyd i fywyd mwy normal, am gyfle i gyfarfod ag anwyliaid ac i gyd-addoli yn y capel. Diolch am dy gynhaliath a'th nerth i ninnau mewn cyfnod anodd, ac am bob cyfle i agosau atat Ti mewn gweddi.

Diolch am dy eiriau, geiriau'r Beibl, sydd wedi bod yn gysur ac yn nerth i ninnau mewn cyfnod anodd. Diolch am deulu a ffrindiau sydd wedi ein cefnogi a'n hannog dros y misoedd diwethaf. Diolch am y sicrwydd dy fod Ti yn ymwybodol o'n hanghenion a'n gofidiau oll, a bod Ti yno i wrando ar ein gweddïau. Derbyd ein diolch, yn enw Iesu, Amen.

THE LOST OLDER SON.

Hymn: 944 'Amazing grace.'

Reading: Luke 15:11-32.

A. THE OLDER SON'S ANGER.

When the older brother returned from the fields and discovered that a party had been arranged for his wayward brother, he was angry. *'But he was angry and refused to go in,' 28. Why? 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders,' 29.*

i) A slave: He felt that he was treated more like a slave or servant and therefore his work was a duty to his father and not a labour of love. The Pharisees' service to God was more out of duty than love. **What of our service to God?**

Is it a duty and burden or does it bring joy?

ii) A faithful son: He had never disobeyed his father's orders. By remaining at home, he had worked constantly and been faithful to his father. The Pharisees believed that they kept all of God's laws and that they lived godly lives and as a result of such human efforts they would eventually reach heaven. There are people today who believe that they can work their way to heaven!

iii) A deserving son: The older son believed, that because

of his good and faithful life, he deserved to be rewarded. He had never had a party with his friends! We are not deserving of heaven – it is a gift to be received from God.

B. THE OLDER SON'S PRIDE.

The error of the younger son was evident to all, so **what wrong had the older son done? Why did he not enter the party?**

i) Pride: What did the older son want from life? His father's possessions and to be able to control his own life. What were the attributes of the Pharisees' life? They believed that they lived faithful and godly lives by keeping the commandments and living respectably. On this basis, they were certain that they would go to heaven one day – that was their pride! There are people today who believe because they have lived decent and respectable lives that God has to bless them. This is not God's way of salvation.

ii) Self-righteous: The older son was more than willing to note his brother's wrongdoing. *'This son of yours has squandered your property with prostitutes,' 30.* He did not see his own sin – his pride and self-righteousness. Neither did he understand mercy and forgiveness, two attributes shown by his father towards his younger brother. The Pharisees likewise, were not prepared to admit to their

wrongs, nor ask for Jesus' mercy and forgiveness. They believed that they were deserving of God's blessings!

C. THE FATHER'S PLEA.

The father pleads with his older son to enter the party.

"My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours," 31. He like everyone has to repent and respond to the God's invitation.

i) *'You are always with me.'* The father would always be there for his son, during trying times, times of loss or even if he was wayward.

ii) *'Everything I have is yours.'* Though his younger brother had returned, he as the older son would not be at a loss. So great is the Father's mercy, it is sufficient for all, the wayward and the respectable – yes, for us!

iii) *'But we had to celebrate and be glad,'* 32. When a person confesses his/her sins and turns to Jesus, this is a time to rejoice. This is how angels respond and God also.

What is our response to God's invitation to receive his mercy?

Are we like the older son, living respectable and religious lives, yet not truly loving God the Father? Is our worship and service to Him a burden or an act of love? Are we proud people, trying to reach God through human effort, believing that God has to reward us for living such good lives? Do we believe that eternal life is something that we

deserve or a reward for living good lives or a gift from a gracious God? OR are we like the younger son, having lived wayward lives and rebelled against God, we have turned back to God and received of his mercy? Or maybe we have lived quiet yet religious lives, but have come to see our need of God's mercy and repented of our sins and turned to Jesus? **What is our response to God?**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks that you are truly like the father in the parable, full of love and mercy. Time and time again we do things that we shouldn't and yet you receive us back when we are truly repentant. We give thanks that during this pandemic, we have been able to draw near to you. We long for life to return to some normality once again, so that we may be able to meet with loved ones and fellowship with other believers. We give thanks that you have kept and sustained us thus far.

We give thanks for your words, as found in the Bible, that have been of comfort and strength to us during these difficult days. Thank you for family and friends who have supported and encouraged us also. We have great comfort in knowing that all our needs and fears are known to you, and that you listen to our prayers. Receive our thanksgiving in Jesus' name, Amen.