

“The Treasure of God”

(T-8.V)

Listen to the story of the prodigal son, and learn what God’s treasure is and yours: This son of a loving father left his home and thought he squandered everything for nothing of any value, though he did not know its worthlessness at the time. He was ashamed to return to his father, because he thought he had hurt him. But when he came home the father welcomed him with joy, because only the son himself was his father’s treasure. *He wanted nothing else.* (3:4-7)

The story	The meaning
<p>“This son of a loving father left his home...”</p>	<p>Leaving his home, of course, is the separation. And the world is the “far country” (Luke 15:13) to which he travels in the original parable.</p>
<p>“...and thought he squandered everything [i.e., his father’s treasure]...”</p>	<p>This is important for later.</p>
<p>“...for nothing of any value, though he did not know its worthlessness at the time.”</p>	<p>No one created by God can find joy in anything except the eternal. That is not because he is deprived of anything else, but because nothing else is worthy of him. (3:1-2)</p>
<p>“He was ashamed to return to his father, because he thought he had hurt him.”</p>	<p>We stay away out of guilt/shame, which entails a view of ourselves as unworthy:</p> <p>You who are God’s Own treasure do not regard yourself as valuable. Given this belief, you cannot understand anything. (11:5-6)</p>
<p>“But when he came home...”</p>	<p>In our story, we have a guide:</p> <p>I can make you aware of the conditions of truth, but the experience is of God. Together we can meet its conditions, but truth will dawn upon you of itself. (13:3-4)</p>

	<p>I share with God the knowledge of the value He puts upon you. My devotion to you is of Him. (12:1-2)</p> <p>And the journey is really only an illusion, for we are already home:</p> <p>Can you be separated from your life and your being? The journey to God is merely the reawakening of the knowledge of where you are always and what you are forever. It is a journey without distance to a goal that has never changed. (12:5-7)</p>
<p>“...the father welcomed him with joy, because only the son himself was his father’s treasure. <i>He wanted nothing else.</i>”</p>	<p>God wants only His Son, because His Son is His only treasure. (4:1)</p> <p>But you could not make yourself unworthy because you are the treasure of God. What <i>He</i> values is valuable. There can be no question of its worth, because its value lies in God’s sharing Himself with it and establishing its value forever. (6:3-5)</p>

Exercise

Imagine yourself coming before God.

Picture Him however you like.

Get in touch with your sense that you are not really worthy of being with God.

You have made mistakes.

You have been hurtful at times.

You have chased after things of the world and forgotten God.

Notice, then, that you approach Him with some doubt and trepidation.

Yet as you near Him, He throws open His arms and wraps you in them.

And you are enveloped in His embrace.

And all your sorrows end in His embrace.

Now hear what He says:

“You could not make yourself unworthy, because you are My treasure.”

He repeats, “My treasure.”

Try to fully let that in, for He means it.

And then hear Him say,

“You are my Son, and all I have is yours.”