GIVE ME THE GIFT OF YOUR HEART

9

WORD OF LIFE

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – Adapterd by the Gen 3 Center

"But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

(*Lk* 15:32)

In depth...

This sentence comes at the end of the Parable of the **Prodigal Son,** which could also be called the Parable of the **Merciful Father**. You certainly know the story. Its purpose is to show us **how merciful God is.** Jesus told other parables to show us the same thing. Do you remember the one about the lost sheep? The owner left the other 99 in the desert to go after the lost one till he found it.

Let's read Chapter 15 in Luke's Gospel

Reading...

In these parables, Jesus emphasizes how **God, who is Love, always takes the first step towards us**, without considering whether we deserve it or not. He wants us to open up to him and have a deep and authentic relationship with him.

Celebrate...

These words are an invitation from God to all of us Christians. He wants us to **rejoice with him, to celebrate,** and to share his joy over all those who **have started again to love**.

Jesus wants us to have the same love he has for those who have gone astray, and his love is boundless, just like God the Father's. He tells us not to judge anyone according to *our* standards, and not to worry about the love God gives to others, like the older son did.

Jesus wants us to change our mentality!
He wants you to welcome boys and girls who you feel like treating with contempt or who have made some wrong choices. He wants you to treat them with love, like brothers and sisters.
This means that we have to make a real conversion, a change of heart, to get rid of the idea that we are better than others, or a sense of intolerance for people of other religions. In this way, we will open our hearts to the salvation that Jesus gained for us, which is a pure gift of God's love.

OUR EXPERIENCES FROM MANY COUNTRIES

This is what happened to: **Jaime**l from El Salvador

One day I was doing my math homework with a friend and I got mad at him because he was so slow and I wanted to get it done. Instead we had another whole page of exercises to finish. After that day, I didn't want to talk to him, but then some of the Young for Unity invited me to a meeting on the Word of Life where they talked about **"love the one who hurts you."** I was really struck by that – like being hit over the head! So I decided I had to resolve my problem with my friend. The next day when I saw him at school I asked him to forgive me, and he said, **"But I already forgave you!"**

Now we are working on our math together again and we are much better friends!

In this month...

If I happen to do something wrong, I jump into action **"WithJoy"!**

SAY "I'M SORRY" WITH A SMILE!

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