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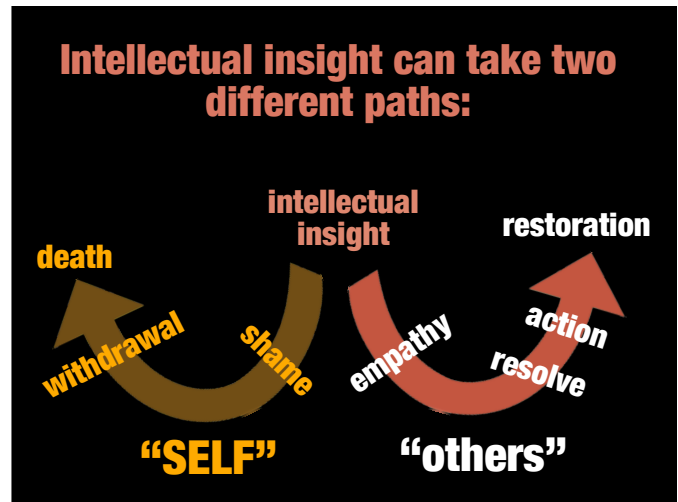


"The pattern of the prodigal is: rebellion, ruin, repentance, reconciliation, restoration."

The Parable of Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-32



1. The Prodigal runs away to a distant land.
2. He becomes destitute through worldly living.
3. This brings him to repent and return home.
4. His father graciously receives him back.
5. His older brother becomes bitter, feeling the father is not fair in graciously receiving the wayward younger brother.



2 Corinthians 2

"⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you. ⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment (**penalty**) which *was inflicted* by the majority, ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him. ⁹ For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰ But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ **so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan**, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

Shame is God's tool before repentance

&

Satan's tool after.

Luke 15

“²⁰ And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

Understanding the Father

- The father represents God in this parable.
- His actions are dramatic and unexpected.
- He stands in contrast to the older brother.
- He shows us how we are to respond.

Note the father's response

1. The father expresses himself to the son with **action** not words.
2. The father **could have said**:

“You have a lot of nerve to show your face around here.”

“You have really hurt your mother and me and things will never be quite the same.”

“You will be expected to work to repay what you have squandered away.”

“You will enter rehab immediately and will be on probation for two years.”

The father's example

1. He was liberating, not overly possessive.
2. He was trusting, not overly protective.
3. He was gracious, not overly punitive.
4. He was initiating, not overly passive.
5. He was lavish, not overly prudent.

Love cares without being possessive.

(The father let the son go.)

1. Love is not about how you make **ME** feel.
2. Love is not about how your behavior affects **MY** image.
3. Love knows when to let go.

When should I let go?

1. When I have reason to **believe** that the son can & will learn.
2. When I **trust** that the son is not in eminent, mortal, danger.
3. When I have the **faith** to risk.

When I have faith in love.

**Because love is not fearful
it is not overly protective.**

(The father did not rescue the son.)

1. Love knows the power of love.
2. Love knows the power of pain and is not afraid.
3. Love is not a body guard or life guard but a swimming instructor.

Love is forgiving and not punitive.

(The father never even mentions the son's failures.)

1. Love does not take into account a wrong suffered.
2. Love is patient and kind.
3. Love is not shocked by failure.
4. Love is not afraid of restoration.
5. Love does not demand justice.

Love is not passive.

(The father runs to welcome his son.)

1. Love takes the initiative but with wise timing.
2. Love rejoices in the truth.
3. Love is not emotionally inhibited.

Love is not prudent (conservative).

(The father is unbridled in his grace.)

1. Love is not conservative with blessing.
2. Love does not count the cost of its joy.
3. Love is lavish and wasteful.

**The father's
eye**

1. He could see beyond his **personal pain** with a vision of God's power.
2. He could see beyond his **personal property** with a vision of true riches.
He was willing to lose part of his estate
He spent a fortune on a homecoming.
3. His whole body **reflected** the light of his eye.

**The father plays three important
roles in the life of the son.**

1. **He helps the son see himself.**
2. **He shows the son God's grace.**
3. **He removes the son's shame.**

Just like Jesus

10 Commandments of "Grace"

1. See beyond your pain.
2. Love people & use things not vise-versa.
3. Let your vision free your conduct.
4. Learn when to let go.
5. Be a swimming instructor.
6. Trust the power of love.
7. Show your love, don't just talk about it.
8. Spiritual warfare is over grace.
9. Forgive from the heart.
10. Be liberal with your grace.

