# Theology  

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## Three Parables

## (1) The Heart of the Father



TRUONG Leapromluc

After eating a meal one rainy Sunday evening last month, I sat down to watch the national and international news on TV. My children also sat around me. The news described some young people who had been arrested for the fearful drug addiction that affects our neighboring country. Suddenly one of my daughters turned to her brother, "Oh Bong Kha, what happened to your friend who was addicted to drugs?"

The brother answered, "You mean Rithy? He is healed." When I heard my children talking this way about his friends I asked my older son, "Kha, who is Rithy? What happened to him?"

My older son told me everything. "Mother, you remember. Rithy studied with me in Baktouk High School, and he used to come to our house. Rithy is the son of Uncle Brak Sambath, who has huge villa in front of Toulkok. His father is very rich; they have several cars. When he completed high school he went to study at the National

Institute of Management near Wat Phnom. Just two years ago he earned his bachelor's degree."
"After finishing college, why did he fall into drug addiction?" my other daughter asked.

My older son continued, "Life is very easy for rich children, unlike the poor who can do nothing. We are too short to reach anything. After earning his degree, Rithy asked his father to give him money to open a tourism business in Siem Reap. Because father favors him and always gives him whatever he asks, he agreed, and gave him a lot of start-up capital.
"Rithy began well às a business owner, but later he became acquainted with friends who enticed him to do many bad things for kicks. Now he was learning bad habits from a neighboring country-going places, drinking, getting girls for his business. Finally he became addicted to drugs. As a result he lost his credit as a moral and knowledgeable young man, and his company closed its doors. He had nothing.
"Later he realized that he had wasted everything that his father had given him. Not only that, he had also become addicted to drugssomething that society hates. After contemplating all this, he decided to come back to Phnom Penh to apologize to his father, even though he was scared that his father would punish him severely.
"When he arrived home he was so afraid he almost could not go inside. But when his father saw how very skinny he was, he felt great pity for him. When Rithy saw his father, he knelt down and begged his father's forgiveness, but his father lifted him up and called all his brothers and sisters to come and welcome him home. Then he found a good doctor to treat him until he got better. This year his father sent him to another school to get his doctor's degree."

At that time my youngest son said, "Rithy's father is very kind; he loves his son so much."

All the words that my son says remind me of the prodigal son in the Bible. Jesus told this parable to the Pharisees to teach them about God's compassion for us. We as his children do many wrong things against him, but our Heavenly Father forgives all our sin when we turn back to him.

This story also reflects to us the problems of present society, and reminds us to carefully teach our young people not to fall into those bad things. Don't conform to this world. Watch out for the influence of the culture of our neighboring country that may lead us to fall into this destruction. We all know that young people are like young bamboo. If they don't value their lives as belonging to God, they may end up practicing the immorality that society hates. Our young people must not become like salt without taste. Therefore they must think carefully about making friends, listening carefully, controlling themselves, not loving money, and living with integrity. As good citizens we must unite together to build up our society to be pure and peaceful.

## (2) Faithful Servant



LONG Sambath

Two Americans, Dale and Rick, went for a stroll in a town in Siem Reap province. While walking Dale touched his pocketand a shock ran through his body when he realized that his passport and the $\$ 1,000$ that had been there were gone. Dale and Rick grew very nervous, and searched everywhere on that day in 1999.

While he was searching, a Japanese man approached him. "What is your name?" he inquired. Because Dale was so worried he snapped back, "What is your name?" Then he continued his search.

After a while the same fellow approached Dale again. "What is your name?" he repeated. "What is your name?" Dale again retorted. Still later the Japanese man came to him one more time with the same question. Dale started to grow curious, and this time answered in a polite manner, "My name is Dale."
"What is your family name?"
"My family name is Jones."
"What are you looking for?" the stranger asked. Then he took out a picture and asked, "Is this yours?"

With surprise he took the picture in his hand. "Yes, this is mine!" he replied.

That Japanese man then returned the more than $\$ 1,000$ and passport that had fallen from Dale's pocket. Dale was very happy ... but at the same time sorry about his bad attitude and behavior toward the Japanese man. He should not have used impolite words with him. Dale apologized and thanked the man for finding and returning what had fallen from his pocket.

This Japanese person was a faithful man. Do we have people like him in the Christian community? How many of our leaders have this kind of commitment to keep themselves pure by fearing God? Jesus said, "If you love me, you have to obey my commandments. You have to carry your cross everyday." God did not create people to act any way they want, but rather to obey and worship Him only. True worship takes place not just inside the church once a week, but should be our activity every minute in praise of His name. If you do not do good to people, how can you say that you are glorifying God?

We must not forget to do good, although we remember that good works do not save us. We received salvation to do good works, and to do them with gladness of heart. This Japanese man did good with gladness. Most people would not be willing to give up something valuable they found and could keep, but this Japanese man wanted to keep purity of heart as the pattern of his life.

People often do not practice good because we have been born into a sinful world. Sin leads us to do bad things. Good works cannot happen unless there is a motivating strength inside, and that strength is love.

The Son of God came to this world not because somebody forced him to come; he came voluntarily out of obedience to his Father and love for humanity. Because of love he sacrificed his life for our sake. To do good honors him and shows that the love we have toward him is not enough. Faithfulness requires total commitment to him.

The Japanese man wanted to return the passport and money even though the owner at first treated him rudely and impolitely.

To fulfill his plan Jesus confronted the Pharisees and the teachers of the law although they mocked and crucified him.

Commitment is the strong foundation for a leader and also is the underlying strategy that leads to success in every endeavor.

Finally, Jesus is giving you time to return to him. Let him give you strength and mold your life so you may become like a diamond that shines brightly to the lost world. Whatever situation you are in, God still needs you. You are an example to other people by your good work and loyalty to what you are doing. One day you will meet Jesus and He will say, "You have been a good, faithful servant; please come and be happy with me" (Matt. 25:21-22).

## (3) My Father and Love



## SAOKHON Sireyvath

Tlalking about Cambodia reminds us of the famous Angkor Temple, which draws many people to visit it at least once in their life time. But we also remember the dark age of the Pol Pot regime when millions of Cambodian lives were lost. There is no exact answer to the questions of what happened to all the people then.

I also am one of those who endured that horrible time. On April 17, 1975 all who lived in the city were forced by black-shirted solders to leave for the various provinces of Cambodia. My family was among them. Along the way were crowds of people. My father and family were unsure of where to go; we just followed the crowds. At that time I was only six years old. My father said, "Come, I'll carry you," and he carried me and later put me on his back. When I was on his back, I felt very happy and warm. Nothing could compare with this peace. While we are walking along the way I frequently asked my father, "Father, father, are you weary?" He answered, "No." I asked him many times about what I.was seeing but didn't understand. Often time we laughed together and were very happy.

This reminds me of the love between a father and his son. God is not different-he loves us as his children, he protects us, he carries us away from the trouble that arises from sin. His love means that he never complains, but continually protects us in all circumstances because he loves us as his children. The Bible says, "... in the wilderness ... you sàw how Yahweh your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place" (Deut 1:31).

- Whenever son face a problem, the father always protects him.
- Protection is love.
- In his love God sacrifices everything to protect and care for us.


## Conclusion

Perhaps the preceding has prompted you to write an article for Honeycomb. If so, we offer, with tongue in cheek, the following advice to our English authors:

## Advice to Our Contributors <br> "How to Write Good"

1. Avoid run on sentences they are hard to read.
2. About sentence fragments.
3. It behooves us to avoid archaisms.
4. Also avoid awkward or affected alliteration.
5. Don't use no double negatives.
6. If I've told you once I've told you a million times: don't exaggerate.
7. Avoid commas, that aren't necessary.
8. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
9. Likewise, pronouns have to agree with its referents.
10. Use of the passive voice should be avoided.
11. Never use a long word when a miniscule one will do.
12. Don't verb nouns.
13. Kill all exclamation marks!!!!!!
14. When dangling, don't use participles.
15. Who needs rhetorical questions?
16. Never, under any circumstances, use repetitive, repetitious redundancies.
17. Proofread carefully to sure you didn't any words out.
18. Eschew obfuscation, and employ the vernacular.
19. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
20. Avoid ampersands \& abbrevs., etc.
21. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
22. Remember to never split an infinitive.
23. Contractions aren't necessary.

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24. Foreign words and phrases are not à propos.
25. One should never generalize.
26. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
27. Be more or less specific.
28. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
29. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
30. Beware of irregular verbs that have crope into our language.
31. Last but not least, avoid clichés like the plague (they're old hat).

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[^0]:    ${ }^{9}$ Arthur W. Hunt III, The Vanishing Word: The Veneration of Visual Imagery in the Postmodern World, Focal Point series, gen. ed. Gene Edward Veith, Jr. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2003).

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