

TRANSFORMATION



Fingerprints of God *Small Group & Individual Study Guide* *Week 3*

The Father: His hand on your shoulder.....His Progeny

Introductory Reading-- *A Place to Begin: Something to Ponder Together*

Week 3 His Cloak of Righteousness for us.

Luke 15:11-32

He came home in rags, and his father not only clothed him, but adorned him. He said to the servants, who all attended their master, upon notice that his son was come, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him. The worst old clothes in the house might have served, and these had been good enough for him; but the father calls not for a coat, but for a robe, the garment of princes and great men, the best robe. There is a double emphasis: "that robe, that principal robe, you know which I mean;" the first robe (so it may be read); the robe he wore before he ran his ramble. When backsliders repent and do their first works, they shall be received and dressed in their first robes. "Bring hither that robe, and put it on him; he will be ashamed to wear it, and think that it ill becomes him who comes home in such a dirty pickle, but put it on him, and do not merely offer it to him: and put a ring on his hand, a signet-ring, with the arms of the family, in token of his being owned as a branch of the family." Rich people wore rings, and his father hereby signified that though he had spent one portion, yet, upon his repentance, he intended him another.

He came home barefoot, his feet perhaps sore with travel, and therefore, "Put shoes on his feet, to make him easy." Thus does the grace of God provide for true penitents. First, The righteousness of Christ is the robe, that principal robe, with which they are clothed; they put on the Lord Jesus Christ, are clothed with that Sun. The robe of righteousness is the garment of salvation, Isa 61:10. A new nature is this best robe; true penitents are clothed with this, being sanctified throughout. Secondly, The earnest of the Spirit, by whom we are sealed to the day of redemption, is the ring on the hand. After you believed you were sealed. They that are sanctified are adorned and dignified, are put in power, as Joseph was by Pharaoh's giving him a ring: "Put a ring on his hand, to be before him a constant memorial of his father's kindness, that he may never forget it." Thirdly, The preparation of the gospel of peace is as shoes for our feet (Eph 6:15), so that, compared with this here, signifies (saith Grotius) that God, when he receives true penitents into his favour, makes use of them for the convincing and converting of others by their instructions, at least by their examples. David, when pardoned, will teach transgressors God's ways, and Peter, when converted, will strengthen his brethren. Or it intimates that they shall go on cheerfully, and with resolution, in the way of religion, as a man does when he has shoes on his feet, above what he does when he is barefoot.

(Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

TRANSFORMATION



Fingerprints of God

Week 3

The Father: His hand on your shoulder.....His Progeny

Week 3 His Cloak of Righteousness for us.

Outline Luke 15:11-32

He gives us His Cloak of Righteousness

His righteousness, He gives it to cover us

If we are wayward... he is waiting for our return, watching longingly from the front porch for the return of the prodigal

If at home..... the cloak of righteousness covers both sons

Ephesians 6:14

Philippians 3:8-9

Week 3 Questions to consider

Reflect and review the sermon message. What were the highlights that stand out to you? What were the key personal takeaways?

Based on the Matthew Henry Commentary excerpt, discuss the following:

Why was the "best robe" chosen by the Father (not just any "old clothes?)"

Why was the robe to be "put on him" rather than just offered to him?

Based on the Scripture passages, discuss the following:

Assuming the son never stopped "being the son" while he was away, discuss whether the robe he received was a reward for returning or was it a reaffirmation of his sonship. What main reasons support your opinion?

Based on Ephesians 6:14, how is "putting on the breastplate of righteousness" either similar or different from the believer being clothed with the "robe of righteousness?"

In Philippians 3:8-9, what is the difference between "the righteousness that comes from the Law" and "the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ?" Why is the difference so important?

Ask if anyone would be willing to share a "prodigal son/daughter" story with regard to their own experience of coming to Christ or returning to Christ after a time of wandering.

Discuss the main reasons/excuses Christians give for "wandering off" away from their faith?

Pray together for areas of need and for life transformation to take place.

Week 3
Going Deeper in His Word
Tweener Time

For your personal devotion time; Read then write your reflections

The Father: His hand on your shoulder.....His Progeny

Week 3 His Cloak of Righteousness for us.

Day 1 Read Jeremiah 23:1-6, then go back and reflect on v.6

Day 2 Read Psalms 71:1-24, then go back and reflect on vs.15 & 16

Day 3 Read Matthew 6:19-34, then go back and reflect on vs. 31-34

Day 4 Read 1Corinthians 1:26-31, then go back and reflect on vs. 30 & 31

Day 5 Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, then go back and reflect on v.21