



Nuggets 25: Dad, How Can You Forgive Me?

My friend John Gibson was wild when he was young. He says he and his friends did every bad thing there is to do. In an upcoming book John gives his testimony:

"He who has been forgiven much loves much. Like the prodigal, I know the joy of coming home to the Lord and to my Dad's house. When my parents heard about my repentant return to the Lord, they drove all night to come and share their joy and their forgiveness. I was away from the Lord and the blessings of my Dad's house for over 17 years. Their joy and acceptance was as real as God Himself accepting me.

"I asked my Dad how he could forgive me for being so disobedient and dragging his good name through the sin in my life. (He would read about me in the newspaper, and once he was arrested and put into jail because I was driving his car with his plates when trouble came.) After thinking about all of the ways I caused my parents pain and shame I asked Dad, 'How can you forgive me, after all that I have done?'

"My dad was only five feet seven in height, and that day he became a giant. I saw the wisdom and love in the Dad that I did not deserve. He said after hesitating a moment, 'Well son, I'm made in the image of God. If God can forgive then I can forgive.' Tears still come when I think of that sentence. Dad believed Solomon's writing, 'Raise up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' Mother told me that all the years they prayed for me, Dad constantly reminded God of His own words in that scripture, and Mother would always pray that God would not let Satan take my life while I was away from the blessings of the Lord."

Luke 7:36-50; 15:1-32; Genesis 1:26,27; Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 6:14,15; Proverbs 22:6

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