

The Love Sick Father:

Rom 5:1-11

Intro:

It was August 1998 and Natasha Ryan at the age of 14 disappeared from her home.

An extensive search was made but nothing was found.

Police were called in but they could find nothing.

Natasha's family were distraught. Her father Robert especially up set at the thought of losing his daughter. Night after night, day after day, month after month and then year after year he wished she would walk back through that door.

2 years after her disappearance the family had almost given up hope and thought she was dead, they conducted a memorial service for her, to try and put the agony to rest.

But underneath there was still the faint hope Natasha would come home one day.

Then late in 2002 a John Fraser confessed to murdering her.

All seemed lost, the families worst fears confirmed. Natasha was dead.

Or so it seemed.

How would you feel in the shoes of Natasha's parents?

A parent losing a child.

The picture of God that is more prominent than any other in the Bible is that picture, the picture of a Father losing a child and wanting their child to return home.

The picture of a love sick father desiring a rebellious child to come home.

It is a heart wrenching scenario for those who have children

It is heart wrenching for God because you and I are like the child that has run away.

A child gone AWOL.

And God our heavenly Father desires that we return to him.

You see our problem is outlined in that passage we read this morning.

It shows our problem in three ways,

One by showing our Position before God, then it shows our problem then God's provision and then our decision.

Lets look at our position before God.

These verses have a dual purpose. They show us what could be ours both negatively and positively

First verse

- peace with God tells us that at sometime we were not at peace with him in fact we were at war with Him. In verse 10 it says we were enemies of God.

Not the best position to be in. An enemy of the most powerful being in the Universe.

Bit like Iraq and the USA.

- It also says there in verse 2 we now have access to God.
- Which means we once did not have access.

In this computer age having access to areas is all the go, and unless you have an access code you are unable to enter, people think up the weirdest access codes, like their pet goldfish's name, or 5th Uncle removed's middle name.

But what the bible is saying is that we didn't have access, you couldn't get in, you had been locked out.

It is a horrible feeling, being locked out of a place you would want to go into.

Imagine our frustration at not being able to get online!

So we don't have peace and no access to God is our plot.

But it is worse as AWOL chn, for being rebellious chn it states in v9 we will experience God's wrath.

God's punishment for our continued rebellion against God.

Which brings us to our problem.

Seen in the first part of v8.

We are sinners. Not the nicest thing to say to someone, but honest.

And if we are honest with ourselves it is true.

Who can say here today that you have loved God with all your heart all of the time.

What that means is that in reality all of us have run away from God our Father.

We have turned our backs on him and decided he doesn't know what is best and headed of in our life thinking we know what is best.

That is what sin is.

It is actively ignoring that God has the right to rule your life and you go your own way.

And that grieves our Father. He is distraught over our decision.

And he goes to extreme measures to get us back.

Robert Ryan and his family searched for years and wouldn't give up to find their child.

God doesn't give up on us either.

As our Father it pains him to see us head for destruction.

So he provides a way back.

He goes to extreme measures to get us back.

Illust: People go to extreme measures for all sorts of reasons. Like a couple I read in the Guinness book of records recently:

- 1) Luis Antonio Agüero the worlds most pierced man, 230 piercings, 175 of them are on his head, He did all his own with a sterilised needle
- 2) Wearing only his swimming speedos Wim Hof endured standing in a tube filled with ice cubes for 1 hr 6min and 4 secs in London 2002

Now those guys were weird but went to extremes to get in the Guinness Book of records.

But what extreme measures would you go to get your child back.

God's extreme measure is Jesus.

God's provision is Jesus

Yet while we were still sinners Christ died for us so that we can have access to God peace with God, avoid Gods wrath, to have reconciliation with God and come back to our Father.

You see, as a just Father He could not overlook our rebelliousness it had to be punished, God's wrath or anger needed to be dealt with.

And in Jesus God deals with it.

And Jesus sheds his blood on the cross so that we could come home.

Illust:

In his book written in blood Robert Coleman tells the story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor had explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from 2 years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two chn had the same rare blood type , the boy was the ideal donor.

" Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked the boy.

Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble.

Then he smiled and said " Sure for my sister"

Soon the 2 chn were wheeled into the hospital room, Mary pale and thin,

Johnny robust and healthy.

Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned.

As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny's smile faded.

He watched the blood flow through the tube.

With the ordeal almost over, his voice a little shakey, he broke the silence and said,

" Doctor when do I die?"

Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he had agreed to donate his blood.

He thought that giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life.

In that brief moment, he'd made his great decision.

Fortunately Johnny didn't have to die to save his sister.

But you see as we have outlined each of us has a condition that causes death. Sin.

And the only way out is with someone who has defeated that disease.

That person is Jesus.

HE took our sin and took on death and defeated them both.

What we need is a blood transfusion, that is to accept and trust in Jesus death for ourselves.

Stop running our lives our way and start living for him.

God goes to the extreme measure to provide a way home for us.

He sends Jesus to give his life to save ours.

That is what happens at the cross.

(That is the good news of Good Friday.)

One life given so that we can live.

One life given so that we can have peace with God

One life given so that we can have access to God

One life given so that we don't have to experience God's anger.

One life given so that we can come home to our love sick Father.

At the Cross as Jesus arms are nailed outstretched on those pieces of wood

God is standing outstretched with his arms to us.

Saying whoever trusts in my Son and what he has done on the cross.

Come home.

On Thursday the 10th of April 2003 Robert Ryan received a call from the Rockhampton police.

Robert couldn't believe what he heard.

Natasha Ryan had been found and she will be coming home.

She had taken off with her boyfriend and disappeared for almost 5 years.

Robert and the family were beside themselves.

In an interview on T.V. Robert told reporters how all he wanted to do was to take her in his arms and cuddle her.

Almost 2000 years ago God opened his arms to you.

He removed every barrier in Jesus.

And if we trust in What Jesus did on the cross the Father holds His arms out to us. And says

"My child was lost but now he is found."

This morning what is your decision going to be?

Are you going to fall into Gods arms or

Are you going to walk away into the world of destruction.

The love sick Father goes to extreme measures in Jesus to welcome you back to the family. **So what are you going to do?**

Romans 5:1-11

RO 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

RO 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

RO 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.