

## **FR.TK.REFLECTIONS FOURTH SUNDAY LENT YEAR-C-2025:**

### **THE FORGIVING FATHER:**

Today's parable is one of the greatest for Lenten season. It is so family based and applies to our current society. It is commonly known as ***the parable of the prodigal son***..it can also be **parable of the old son or even parable of the forgiving father**. Which ever title we give it, it has something to talk to us in a very powerful way. we need only to open our heart and mind today.

We have a hard time with **forgiving, we forgive, or think we have forgiven but find that whenever we meet such person who has wronged us**, the whole episode is reborn, is that forgiveness? Today's Gospel tells the story of this young man who doesn't deserve the forgiveness of his father, all he wants is good lavish life and loot to finance it. He is sick of home, studies, farming and instructions from his father. He is in love with the big city away from home. He demands for his inheritance which actually didn't sweat for, He gets it and goes away to unnamed country or state. He **squanders everything and loses it all**.

This distance unnamed country may not necessarily mean a place, it might mean, **a way of living, a state of the heart or a situation where you live away from God, your family, church, your marriage commitment or even your vocation**. Perhaps it might be even an **immoral, spiritual, or slow social decay**. it could be even living away in your own **selfish fantasy world** not minding and caring about anything or anybody rather the distance country is **condition of life you choose**.

We are lured by situations when sin is made to look like fun **sin might be fun until a person is addicted to drugs,until,one becomes alcoholic,and can no longer pull himself together** thus hurting others and even himself,it can be fun **until infidelity breaks and destroys your marriage and your family,it is fun until,pride, arrogance,greed and deception bend our life leaving us disinherited,out of shape,and isolated from God and others, thus leading to ruining us morally,spiritually,socially and psychologically.** Could these *be the distance country in our times? What is your distance country?* Good reflection during this 4th Sunday of Lent.

The prodigal son after misusing what he had at least he came **back to his senses and realize his mistake**,he was determined to go and apologies to his father.\***I will leave this place and go to my father and tell him,I have sinned against heaven and against you\***what a great lesson for all us during Lent,to **repent and turn to God! To admit our sins, short comings,weakness and our faults.** Do we have that courage of admitting and swallow our pride!

We need the **Grace of God** and take **responsibility of what we have done** rather than passing the blame and loading it to others thus making us **trapped in destructive sinful patterns and circles.**

Like the old son sometimes we feel somebody who repents shouldn't be forgiven,must pay for his actions and mistakes,that he should **suffer,have pain,be humiliated and agonized** to learn from his mistake.The father took a different path of **accepting,forgiving and reconciling his family.**He build **bridges and destroyed the walls** separating his family which we need to go for even in our

separated families. Lent helps us to have a **flesh beginning, a second chance.**

The prodigal son is teaching us the importance of **saying I am sorry.** The old son is teaching us **the need for those who repent to be forgiven where else the father is the negotiator and reconciler in building the bridges thus teaching us to forgive and love.**

**LET US USE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION THIS LENT:**