

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 2-1: The Return of the Prodigal Son 浪子回头

Jesus went on to say, “there was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property (财产) now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted (浪费) his money in reckless living (乱花钱的生活). He spent (用光) everything he had. Then a severe famine (严重饥荒) spread over (蔓延) that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care (接管) of the pigs (猪). He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods (豆荚) the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses (醒悟过来) and said, 'All my father's hired workers (雇工) have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! (饿死) I will get up and go to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against God (得罪了神) and against you. I am no longer fit (不配) to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.’ So he got up and started back to his father. `

"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity (怜悯), and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' But the father called to (叫) his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf (肥小牛) and kill it, and let us celebrate (庆祝) with a feast (宴席)! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive (死而复活); he was lost, but now he has been found (失而复得).' And so the feasting began.

"In the meantime the older son was out in the field (田地). On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' , 'Your brother has come

back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.' The older brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged (求) him to come in. But he spoke back to his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave (奴工), and I have never disobeyed (不顺从) your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat (山羊) for me to have a feast with my friends! But this son of yours (你这个儿子) wasted all your property on prostitutes (妓女), and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother (你的兄弟) was dead, but now he is alive, he was lost, but now he has been found.' "

(Luke 15:11-32)

2. Discussion:

1. What did the younger son do in this story?
2. What did the father do when he saw the return of his younger son?
3. Describe the reaction (反应) of the older son when he heard of the return of his younger brother
4. What is the teaching of Jesus in this parable?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 50. Let me see. | 让我想想。 |
| 51. Never mind. | 没关系。 |
| 52. No problem! | 没问题! |
| 53. That's all! | 就这样! |
| 54. Time is up. | 时间快到了。 |
| 55. What's new? | 有什么新鲜事吗? |
| 56. Count me on | 算上我。 |