

²⁵ Many crowds were going with Jesus and, turning, he said to them,

²⁶ “If someone is coming to me and is not disowning his own father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters, and even his own life, then he is not able to be my apprentice. ²⁷ Whoever is not carrying her own cross and coming behind me is not able to be my apprentice.

²⁸ For which among you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if she has enough to finish? ²⁹ Otherwise, after putting down her foundation and not being able to complete everything, those watching will begin to mock her, ³⁰ saying,

‘This person began to build and is not able to complete it!’

³¹ Or what ruler, coming together with another ruler for a war, does not, while sitting, deliberate whether he is powerful enough with ten thousand to confront the one with twenty thousand coming upon him? ³² If not, he will surely send an ambassador and request the things for peace while still far away.

³³ Therefore, everyone from among you who does not say goodbye to all his possessions is not able to be my apprentice. ³⁴ Accordingly, salt is beautiful, but if the salt is made dull, then how will it be fixed? ³⁵ It is not useful for the earth or for manure! They are throwing it outside. Whoever has ears to listen—listen!”

^{15.1} All the tax-collectors and rebels were within grasp of Jesus to listen to him. ² The Pharisees and the writers began complaining, saying,

“He is waiting for rebels and is eating with them!”

³ Jesus spoke to them this analogy, saying,

⁴ “Who among you has one hundred sheep and, after one of them is heading to destruction, is not leaving the ninety-nine in the wilderness and is going after the one heading to destruction till he finds it? ⁵ Then, if he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing! ⁶ Coming home, he calls together friends and neighbors, saying to them,

‘Rejoice with me! For I found my sheep which had been heading to destruction!’

⁷ I say to you, there will be joy like this in heaven over one rebel who transforms, rather than over ninety-nine who are living-justly and have no need for transformation.

⁸ Or if a woman, who has ten days’ pay, has one day’s pay heading to destruction, is she not kindling a lamp, sweeping the house, and seeking carefully till she finds it? ⁹ Then after finding it, she calls together friends and neighbors, saying,

‘Rejoice with me! For I found the one day’s pay which was headed to destruction!’

¹⁰ I say to you, the messengers of the Creator have joy like this over one rebel who transforms!”

¹¹ Jesus said,

“A person had two children ¹² and the younger of them said to the father,

‘Father, give me the part of the property which is mine by right.’

And so the father distributed his living between them. ¹³ Not many days afterward, gathering everything, the younger child journeyed into a far off land and there he dispersed his property, while living senselessly. ¹⁴ After spending everything he had, a strong famine came throughout that land and he began to lack. ¹⁵ So he joined with one of the citizens of that land, who sent him into his fields to herd pigs. ¹⁶ There, he began wanting to feed from the pods of the carob-trees, which the pigs were eating, because no one was giving anything to him. ¹⁷ When he came to himself, he enlightened,

‘How many of my father’s employees have an excess of bread, while I am being destroyed by this famine? ¹⁸ I will stand up, go to my father, and say to him,

“Father, I rebelled against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your child. Make me like one of your employees.”’

²⁰ Standing up, he went to his own father. But while still far away from him, his father saw him, had empathy on him, and, running, fell upon his neck and befriended him. ²¹ The child said to him,

‘Father, I rebelled against heaven and in your sight, I am no longer worthy to be called your child.’

²² But the father said to his slaves,

‘Quickly, bring out the first-rank robe and put it on him! Give a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet! ²³ Bring the well-fed calf! Sacrifice it! Eating, we will celebrate! ²⁴ For this child of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was headed to destruction and he is found!’

And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ The father’s older child was in a field. When he was within grasp of the house, he heard singing and dancing. ²⁶ Calling one of the servants, he began inquiring about what these things were. ²⁷ The servant said to him,

‘Your brother has come back and your father has sacrificed the well-fed calf because he received him back healthy!’

²⁸ The older son was angry and he was not willing to go in. But coming out, his father began exhorting him. ²⁹ Answering, he said to his father,

‘Look! So many years I have slaved for you! I have never gone by any command of yours! And yet you have never even given a goat to me so I could celebrate with my friends! ³⁰ But when this child of yours, after consuming your living with prostitutes, came back, you sacrificed the well-fed calf for him!’

³¹ But the father said to him,

‘Child, you are always with me and all my things are your things. ³² But it is necessary to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and he lives, he was headed to destruction and he is found!’”