

His father saw him... and ran to him...

Homily, 22nd March, 2014

Luke 15,1-3.11-32

father G. Paparone o.p.

Dear brothers and sisters,

how many times we have listened to this beautiful parable that often makes us cry considering the great **love** God has for us and considering our **misereries** and **sins**...

However, at the moment, I would like to focus on this verse of the Gospel:

"while he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him".

This is, my dear, the true face of the Christian God:

- **a God** who looks after us from far away, who scans the horizon and sees if we take our first steps towards him.
- **a God** who has a heart full of love, pity and mercy. We only need to take a little step and He runs towards us, He falls on our neck, He wants to kiss us, He wants to dress us again with new dresses.
- **a merciful Father** we cannot understand because we are unable to feel merciful. Like the elder brother, who, instead of being happy for his brother who was coming back home, was indignant, full of envy, he contested God's love.

Here is the truth of our life: God is good and we are bad, and the world's evil depends on our wickedness and insensibility.

Let's then trust this truth I believe is unique among all other religions.

A God who is Father! Who runs towards his sons full of love, who scans the horizon and sees if we have already decided to go back to him.

Let's go back to him with whole heart !! Only he can fill us with joy, fullness and well-being.

The Gospel teaches us that today!

He put the ring on his finger, "quickly bring him the finest robe, put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast."

That's what God wants to give everyone.

Let's rely on His Word and start walking to the Father's Home and we will receive all this!