

# The Word



The second son, the prodigal's brother  
By  
Lancelot Watson

The second son warrants close scrutiny. He is displeased with his father for making this big to do over the return of his brother. He is jealous of his brother and angry with his father, he says, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" (Luke 15:29-30). This son's attitude is that of a spoiled brat. He is self-centered and egotistical and demonstrates no feeling of joy towards his brother who according to the father "was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." (Luke 15:32) Many see this older brother as depicting the self-righteous Pharisees who felt they were the only ones suitable for the presence of God. The older brother was certainly, self-righteous, he thought "neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment." He overlooked the fact that he no doubt played a big role in the younger brother's decision to leave home. He probably made life so difficult for his younger brother that the lad decided to get as far away as possible from him. The older brother also did not realize that his hard hearted attitude towards the return of his brother was indeed a transgression of the Father's command which enjoins us to "love one another." (John 15: 12)

Of greater relevance however of the older brother's attitude is our false understanding of the way of God and our unwillingness to appreciate his principle of equality. The Father's unconditional welcome of the lost son, and his restoration to a position of high honor is an unequivocal statement to the effect that before God we are all equal. In another story Jesus spoke of a Good-man (the Father) who gave work to laborers to keep them from being idle. Whenever he saw a man not working, he put him to work regardless of the time of day. At the end of the day the man gave each of the workers the same amount of pay. This did not sit well with some as they felt they had done more work and therefore should receive more pay. But the Goodman thought otherwise, he said, "friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on... Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?" (Matthew 20:13,15) The idea here is that the older brother will still receive all that is his due and so there is neither need nor place for jealousy.

The older son felt also that the Father was taking from him to give to his brother. He did not realize that the Father's store-room of goodness was so vast that even after giving to all, He still has more to give. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it," (Malachi 3:10). Among the many things we are to understand is that our Father is not lacking in resources. There is more than enough for each one of us, hence, there is no need to be jealous, or covetous of the blessings the Father gives to others.

Let us therefore have a welcoming spirit to all our brothers and sisters who departed from the Lord and have made the journey back home to Him. Let us rejoice and be glad for them.

## CHELMSFORD LIFE LINES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

### Welcome to Worship Service

*We are glad you chose to worship God here today. Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

September 25, 2011

Greeters Collins Family  
Welcome Phil Dumont  
Song Leader Scott Renner  
**63 I will call upon the Lord**  
**51 Father of Mercies**  
Scripture John Ferullo  
**Romans 12:1-8**  
Prayer Rich Cascio  
**418 Breathe on me breath of God**  
**314 Beneath the cross of Jesus**  
Communion Brian Collins  
Contribution Skip Jacquard  
Servers Earl Mosier  
Kent White  
Scripture Luke Lu  
**Acts 17:24-31**  
Lesson Charlie Dismuke  
**931 Wake up o sleeper**  
Prayer Rich Cascio  
Announcements  
**867 To Canaan's land**  
Shepherd's blessing

October 2, 2011

Greeters Loielle Family  
Song Leader Scott Renner  
Prayer Ron Descoteaux  
Scripture Bill McIninch  
Luke Lu  
Communion Kent White  
Contribution Rich Cascio  
Servers Luke Lu  
Skip Jacquard  
Lesson Lancelot Watson  
Prayer Brian Collins

### **Worship Opportunities:**

**Sunday**  
Fellowship 9:00 am  
Worship 9:30 am  
Bible Classes 11:00 am  
**Mid-Week**  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

## Prayer Requests



Pray that the doctors can find answers for Lauren who has been experiencing tremors in her upper body.

Pray for Ann Marie and family that they can find housing in FL in time for their move.

Charlie Farley has made the decision of "no treatment". Pray for Charlie and Madeline as they deal with his decision.

Earl asks prayers for his wife's job interview that it goes well.

Pray for Paulette's coworkers son who was in a car accident and needs several more surgeries. Pray for Valerie as she deals with her job and his injury.

Pray for Paulette's boss' daughter also.

Patty asks prayers for her mother, Gracie, for an improvement in her health.

Pray for Taylor, Patty's daughter, for strength to continue to let God direct her steps.

Pray for Tommy, Taylor's twin, for his emotional health that he can learn to trust God to take care of him.

Pray for a buyer for the Renner's house.

Pray for Drew for strength that he remain healthy and able to pursue his studies.

Pray for Jeremy that he can adjust to college life with less stress to be able to stay well and do his studies.

Continue to pray for Haverlina who has migraine headaches for relief.

Pray for the Collins family who will be away at a Homeschooling camp.

Pray for the Watsons as they travel to the Harding lectureship, Sun– Thur.

May we allow your word to teach us what we need to make us profitable servants of you, O Lord.

# From the elders

## ANGEL FOOD HAS CLOSED THEIR DOORS:

### Message – Angel Food Update

Angel Food Ministries has considered many options regarding our future. At this time we regret to inform you that we have not found a solution that will allow Angel Food Ministries to continue to distribute food on a monthly basis and have decided to cease operations. We realize the pressure that this places on our host sites, community food banks and customers.

We are comforted by the thousands of comments we have received expressing support for Angel Food Ministries and the great need to continue helping those in need. We at Angel Food Ministries are truly heartbroken to have to cease operations but it has not compromised our faith in God or our commitment to helping those in need.

Please check this website often for the latest information. Thank you for your prayers, faithfulness and your commitment to Angel Food Ministries over these past 17 years.

Feel free to contact us at:  
angelfood@angelfoodministries.com.

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## Calendar of Events



**Last Saturday Morning of the month—Angel Food Ministry Distribution**  
**Gander Brook Mens Retreat 9/22-24**  
**Ladies Day-New Haven 10/8**  
**Chelmsford Ladies Lunch 9/10**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive 10/15**  
**Christian Leadership Weekend 11/18-20**

Outreach Building Use:  
AA - Wed. 10:00 -11:30am  
AA Young Adults - Mon. 7:00pm  
Angel Food Distribution

Fellowship	9/18/11	9/11/11	9/4/11
Worship	51	52	45
Contribution Budget Weekly +-	4521.32	2701.07	2027.94
Mid Week Devotion	15	18	18

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Special contribution** - A special contribution will be taken up today for Latoya Williams for whom we have been praying . Her heart surgery was rescheduled for this Thursday as the surgeon and hospital wants the cost of US \$6000.00 to be paid up front. About \$3000.00 has been raised so far with the likelihood of another \$1000. from another congregation.

### **Ladies Day: October 8th Happening**

Ladies mark your calendar for Saturday, October 8th for a couple of hours spent sprucing up the chairs in the sanctuary.

Afterward you will enjoy the bonus of talking with your sister while you munch pizza. We plan to meet at 11 and leave at 1:00.

Come and enjoy the fun. Next month another project will be planned with a different menu.

### **Dear to Our Heart**

Walk-n-Roll for Spina Bifida TODAY. You can still support this effort with a donation in Emily's name. See AnnMarie.

**Mens Breakfast/Devotional** will resume now that summer is over. We will be meeting at the building for food and fellowship. With many of our men at Gander Brook at the end of this month, we will have our Sept meeting on Oct 1.

**Operation Christmas Child** brochures can be found on the table in the foyer. Shoeboxes can be found by the stairway near the Christmas tree. This year's due date for completed boxes is Nov 13th. Any questions please see Linda.

**Potluck** has been postponed until October 9th when we will celebrate with the Wiggins family.

Remember the Special Collection on Sunday, 9/25. for Latoya Williams' surgery.

### **Concerning the Collection of Weeds**

Some people have asked what to do with their weeds once they've pulled them. On the coat rack are a bunch of plastic bags. You can bag your weeds then please take them home to put in your own trash. There are disposable gloves on the coat rack too in case that would help some people pull weeds.