

TO BE RIGHT, TO BE KIND - PART 2

The Bible says that God is loving and kind. While it is easy for me to understand how He is loving, hindi ko naintindihan noon how God is kind. But when I learned that kindness means mercy and that mercy means to show kindness based on compassion, I saw an example of this kindness in the story of the Prodigal Son.

In the story of the Prodigal (wasteful) Son Story, I had often wondered why the father did not scold his son when he asked for his inheritance while he was still alive and why he did not reject his son when he returned home. I believe he was not a bad father, because the other son did not turn out that way. So most likely he had taught them proper values when they were small, but unfortunately, the younger one chose to live life his way.

For years, I have been asking why the father did not reject his son when he returned, why he did not scold him for what he did and why he did not punish him for squandering his money. It took me a long time to realize that the reason is that the son had been terribly punished already. The world he wanted to enjoy stole his money, robbed him of his dignity, made him eat food for pigs, etc. Because the world rejected his son, the father could not help but feel compassion, so he welcomed him home so that he can show him kindness.

I believe , God the Father is the same. He gave us laws, torah or instructions, to guide and bless us. If we disobey them, He will send people He calls prophets to warn us so that we may repent. He does this to protect us from the possible consequences of our actions. If we continue to disobey, like the father of the prodigal son, He will step aside so we can experience the cruel ways of the world which we wish to enjoy. Hopefully, someday we may realize that He does what He does because He is loving. When we repent and return to Him, He will welcome us back so that He can show us mercy and kindness. He does not have to punish us anymore because the world whom we chose to obey had already punished us mercilessly.

What is more important? To be right or to be kind? God will always be right, but most of the time He chooses to show kindness instead. He gave us His laws because He wants to bless us, He warns us of our sins because He wants to protect us and when we repent and return to Him He will accept us. And He wants us to do the same to the people who may rebel or go against us.

In Matthew 9:13, Jesus said, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

