

"God loves me as He loves nobody else in the world!"

O God, be merciful to me a sinner!

The gospel parable deals with our perception of who we are in the eyes of God.

God has chosen us to be in relationship with Him.

What causes us not to be humble? Our EGO

Story: A newly-commissioned Colonel just moved into his office, when a soldier entered with a toolbox. To impress the private, the colonel said "be with you in a moment, soldier!"

Picking up the phone, the colonel said "General, it's you! How can I help you?" A dramatic pause followed. Then the colonel said "No problem. I'll phone Washington and speak to the President about it." The colonel then said to the private "Now, what can I do for you?" The private shuffled his feet and said sheepishly, "Oh, just a little thing, sir. They sent me to hook up your phone!"

My Dear Friends, EGO is when in any given situation or in our life, we take over and do not acknowledge that God has chosen us to be in relationship with Him.

In the Process of letting our EGO take over, we **Edge God Out**.

Looking at our Nation today, we can see many ways God has been Edged Out.

Why do we have an EGO? I suggest it is because we all have this need and desire to be loved and accepted.

The experience of being loved is so fascinating because it enables us to have a unique acceptance and worth in the lover's eyes.

This is what the Father's love brings about. Each of us can experience that in His eyes we are loved, chosen by God, in an extremely personal way.

God sees us as we are, not in comparison with someone else. We are all God's children. Yet God sees us and loves us individually.

God doesn't judge us as better or worse than another person.

A Pharisee and a Tax Collector come into the Temple. Both are there to pray. Only one is a humble enough to recognize his need for the healing hand of God.

The Pharisee leaves having nothing, but his own self-satisfaction - his EGO.

Only the Tax Collector is the one who truly prays because he realizes how much he really needs God. He is the one who leaves the Temple with a great treasure: the love of God in his heart and God's arms around him.

God sees Himself in us, our unique reflection of His being. He loves us. He is far more concerned with extending us His mercy than He is with our sinfulness.

When we come to Church seeking this mercy, we leave Church living under His mercy.

"God is tender and merciful... He only shows us our sin while revealing His forgiveness and mercy at the same time.

God loves us as we are, with an absolutely unconditional love, and it is this love that gives us our deepest identity.

All men and all women are in search of their identity, their personality at the deepest level. "Who am I?"

Our true identity is a gift to be received. It is not about achieving, but letting ourselves be begotten.

Each of us has every right to say:

"God loves me as He loves nobody else in the world!"

(ask people to repeat)

When we fully believe and receive His Love, then we will be able to say:
Jesus, I want to love you as no one has ever loved you!

We can give God and also give our brothers and sisters, a love that nobody has ever yet given them.

We can give them our love in response to the love that God has for us and with the grace we receive from Him.

(Receiving His Love - Releases all the Love within US)

God sometimes takes pleasure in showing us His love through the friendship or care of a person He places in our path. Sometimes we are not aware that our presence is giving Love to another.

Let us Pray:

May the Lord make us better servants who love with compassion and mercy, never focusing on being better than or above others, but recognizing our need to be greater servants to others, because we have been given so much Love, Forgiven so much, and Blessed so much.

Jesus, I want to love you as no one has ever loved you!

Praise be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!