

I HOPE THAT YOU ALL HAD A MEANINGFUL YOM KIPPUR YESTERDAY. YOM KIPPUR IS THE HIGHEST HOLY DAY IN THE JEWISH FAITH AND IS KNOWN AS “THE DAY OF ATTONEMENT”. FOR MANY JEWS OF TODAY, YOM KIPPUR IS THE ONLY DAY OF THE YEAR THAT THEY ATTEND AT THE TEMPLE. KIND OF LIKE HOW A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CATHOLICS ONLY ATTEND MASS ON CHRISTMAS AND EASTER. NOW IT SEEMS ASH WEDNESDAY HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST OF DAYS TO ATTEND . YOM KIPPUR MARKS THE DAY THAT MOSES RECEIVED THE COMMANDS THE SECOND TIME FROM GOD ON THE MOUNTAIN. THE REASON THAT HE HAD TO GET A SECOND SET OF TABLETS WAS BECAUSE HE BROKE THE FIRST SET IN A FIT OF ANGER WHEN HE CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN AND FOUND THAT THE PEOPLE (THINKING THAT MOSES DESERTED THEM) HAD FORMED IDOLS TO WORSHIP AND WERE CRAZED WITH REVELRY.

**“Whoever is for the LORD, come to me!”**

ALL THE LEVITES THEN RALLIED TO HIM. THEN MOSES INSTRUCTED THEM TO PUT ON THEIR SWORDS AND SLAY THEIR CRAZED KINSMEN AND THEY KILLED THREE THOUSAND THAT DAY.

SO IT SEEMS THAT MOSES COULD NOT FORGIVE THE PEOPLE WHOSE CASE HE PLEADED BEFORE GOD.

ATONEMENT FOR CATHOLICS IS REPENTENCE.

IN THE SECOND READING WE HEAR PAUL REPENT FOR PERSECUTING THE CHURCH AND RECEIVING GOD’S MERCY.

HE SAYS THAT THIS IS A RELIABLE TRUTH:

**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

IN TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO THE PHARISEES ABOUT HIS MISSION IN LIFE HE SHARES THREE PARABLES, ONE ABOUT THE CONCERN OF ALL THE SHEEP IN THE FLOCK. THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED BY GOD AND THEY ALL HAVE EQUAL VALUE IN HIS EYES. THAT IF ONE STRAYS HE WILL GO AFTER IT BECAUSE OF IT'S VALUES TO THE WHOLE FLOCK.

ANOTHER ABOUT A WIDOW LOSING A COIN THAT IS VERY VALUABLE FOR HER LIVELYHOOD AND THE JOY OF FINDING IT AFTER MUCH SEARCHING. AND THEN OF COURSE, ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PARABLES, THE PRODIGAL SON AND HIS FAITHFUL BROTHER.

I HAVE HAD A HARD TIME READING THIS GOSPEL FROM TIME TO TIME BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF MY RETURN TO THE FATHER WHEN I WAS SUFFERING FROM A LONG DEPRESSION (OF MY OWN MAKING) AND HOW GRATEFUL I WAS THAT GOD WAS SO MERCIFUL AND FORGIVING.

I THINK OF HOW THE PRODIGAL SON HAD TO SWALLOW HIS PRIDE AND ONLY WANTED TO BE A HIRED HAND IN ORDER TO GET FOOD TO EAT.

**HE KNEW THE FATHER'S FORGIVENESS AND MERCY** WHICH HIS OLDER BROTHER NEVER LEARNED. HIS FATHER WAS OVERJOYED AT HIS RETURN AND THERE WAS NEVER THE THOUGHT OF SCOLDING OR SAYING "I TOLD YOU SO" OR "NEVER DO THAT AGAIN". IT WAS PURE JOY, PERIOD. THE FACT THAT THE FATHER WAS CONTINUOUSLY LOOKING FOR HIS SON'S RETURN BECAUSE WHILE HE WAS STILL FAR OFF, HIS FATHER SPOTTED HIM.

THE OLDER SON BROKE HIS FATHER'S HEART IN A DIFFERENT WAY. BY ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES HE WAS THE GOOD SON. BUT IN HIS HEART HE COULD NOT DO WHAT THE FATHER DID SO NATURALLY. HE COULD NOT FORGIVE HIS BROTHER.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE FATHER?**

TO WORK HARD TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY INHERITANCE  
OR TO LOVE AND FORGIVE THE FAMILY MEMBERS?

**HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THOSE THAT OFFEND US?**

**OUR FATHER.....FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE.....**