

Parables to Ponder

"I don't know what you need, if you don't express it to me," said the man in a kind voice to his son.

The boy sat looking out the window, crying and wishing for something his father knew not.

Truthfully, however, the father did have an idea, of what it was. But to ask in order to receive was a skill the boy lacked. He wished that everything he ever needed would always be given to him right away, without humbly and honestly communicating with this father about it.

The father wanted his son to have a good life, but he knew that to do well, his son would need to think and decide what he wanted there to be in his life, and what he wished to accomplish. The boy would then need to put those thoughts into words of respectful requests, to his father who could help him.

At last the boy stopped to think, then turned to his father to express his wish. He knew that if his father agreed that it was good for him and right for now, his wish would be granted.

The boy knew it was good, for it was even something his father wished for him too, he was sure.

"Father," the boy said, drying his eyes.

"If it please you, would you give me permission to take music lessons from our neighbour? For music is in my heart and I wish for it to be expressed. Yet as I am now, I have not the skill to do so."

The father smiled. "Yes, indeed, my son. I see you have made a good choice. This will be granted. You may start lessons as soon as it is possible. I will pay for them if you will use the skill for the good of your family and the community. See to it then, that it will be worth the cost."

"Thank you!" said the boy, giving his father a big embrace. Then with a cheerful smile ran out to tell his mother and brother. So happy was he that while he told his mother he offered to help her with the task she was doing.

When he went to his younger brother to share the news, his brother said, "Why are you so glad today when you have not even had your first music lesson?"

"Ah," said the older brother, "But my father said that it shall happen, and I know our father never lies. I can trust him to keep his word. He said it, so it is as good as done. When the time is right it will happen. I can wait with a heart of joy."

Then the boy paused, and a thoughtful look crossed his face.

He thought to himself, "I wonder why I waited so long to ask. I could have saved myself the sorrow in heart if only I had asked my father sooner. For even if he had told me the time was not yet right, I know I would have felt at peace knowing that he understood my feelings and desire."

The boy resolved then that the next time something troubled him, he would speak with his father about it. He knew his father loved him and would care about his needs and desires, and would agree to give him what was good. The boy could trust that if his father ever denied him a request, or he was made to wait before receiving something, it would only be because the father knew this to be what was best at that time. In either way the father showed his love. And communicating with his father about what concerned him would help keep his heart free of care, and the trust in his father's care would be renewed.

When the boy at last enjoyed his first music lesson with the kind and skilled neighbour, the boy said to himself: "I am glad my father has given me this gift of what I have long desired. I will not keep this kindness to myself, but will use what I have been given, to cheer the lives of others. I will freely give of the gifts I have been blessed with, to help others in ways that will please my father."