Catholicism 101 #17 Sacraments of Healing

# SACRAMENTS OF HEALING:

1. Sacrament of confession, also called sacrament of reconciliation, sacrament of penance, sacrament of conversion.
2. Sacrament of the sick, also called sacrament of anointing.

**Aims of this class:**

1. to understand the mercy of the Father, that he forgives our sins and heals our weaknesses and sicknesses.
2. To be able to describe the sacrament of confession and what it’s effects are.
3. To be able to describe the sacrament of the sick and what it’s effects are.

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

[Luke 15:11-32]

**11**And he [Jesus] said, “There was a man who had two sons; **12**and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. **13**Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living.

1. *Why did the younger son ask for his inheritance?*
2. *How do you think the Father felt?*
3. *How do you think the older son felt?*

 **14**And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. **15**So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16**And he would gladly have fed on[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+15&version=RSVCE#fen-RSVCE-29771b)] the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything.

1. *What do you think about the choices the younger son made?*
2. *How do you think the younger son felt? How would you have felt?*

 **17**But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! **18**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; **19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.”’

1. *What does the younger son realize about his father? What is his image of the Father?*
2. *What does he realize about his own choices?*
3. *How does he feel about returning to his Father’s house?*

 **20**And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21**And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+15&version=RSVCE#fen-RSVCE-29776c)]**22**But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; **23**and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; **24**for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And thy began to make merry.

1. *How does the Father respond to the younger son’s return?*
2. *How does the Father feel when his son comes back?*
3. *What do you think the Father feels about his younger son’s life choices?*

**25**“Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26**And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. **27**And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ **28**But he was angry and refused to go in.

1. *How does the older son feel? Why?*

His father came out and entreated him, **29**but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. **30**But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’

1. *How does the older son feel about the Father? What is his image of the Father?*

**31**And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32**It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

1. What does the Father feel about the older son?
2. What does the Father feel about the younger son?

**Questions for personal reflection (not for sharing)**

How do you feel when you realize you have sinned?

Have you experienced a “wake up call” or conversion of heart when you suddenly realize you’re on the wrong path or have made wrong choices?

How do you see our Father God?

Do you see the mercy of God?

When you are in trouble, do you trust that you can return to our Father in heaven and ask His forgiveness and trust that he loves us and will welcome us back with joy and open arms?

**Questions about conversion of heart**

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|  | **In the parable** | **Notes** | **In the sacrament of reconciliation.** |
| **Sin** | • When does the younger son sin?•When does the older son sin? |  | Sin |  |
| **Repentance (change of heart)** | • When does the younger son have a change of heart or “wake up call” and realize he has sinned? |  | Examination of conscience, repentance. | Preparation for confession |
| **Amendment (conversion of heart)** | • Do you think the younger son intends to sin again? Why / why not? |  | Firm purpose of amendment (resolve to avoid sin in future) |
| **Confession, asking forgiveness** | • When does the younger son confess his sins? |  | Confession of sins | In confessional, with priest |
| **Contrition (sorrow for sins)** | • When does the younger son say sorry for his sins |  | Act of contrition |
| **Forgiveness** | • Who forgives who in this parable? Who struggles to forgive? |  | Forgiveness and absolution of sins. |
| **Penance** | • How does the younger son plan to make up for his sins? |  | Penance | outside |