THE PARABLE OF THE FATHER'S HEART

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FOREWORD

UR Lord uttered the supreme Parable of His teaching in revelation of the attitude of God to man in his lost condition. The three phases of the Parable constitute a wonderful unveiling of the Divine heart. In each the greatest joy is shown to be that of God, for the deepest rejoicing was that of the shepherd who owned the sheep, the woman who lost the coin, and the father who mourned his son.

In the first, we have the aspect of grace as revealed in the work of the Son Who came to seek and save the lost. There was no effort on the part of the sheep to return.

In the second, we have the aspect of grace as revealed in the work of the Spirit, expressed through the ministry of the Church. She seeks amid the darkness and desolation, for the lost. Here again, God is revealed patiently seeking the lost, when there is no desire on his part to return.

The third reveals the aspect of grace as revealed in the love of the Father. A love that was always set upon the sinner shone out in its brightest glory in the welcome