

# *My Father's House*

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## THE SACRAMENT OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR

By

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**“The Lord will restore the years that the locusts have eaten.” Joel 2:25**

### **The Principle of the Eleventh Hour**

In both the old and the new testament we have God speaking of a final hour that will redeem the brokenness that went before. You see this principle explained for example in the Book of Joel 2:25 that the Lord will restore the years that the locusts have eaten. Also in the story of Job where in the final hour God gave Job twice as much as he had before. (Job 42:10). You see Jesus using the same principle when He tells us that the vineyard owner gave to those who came at the final hour the same thing that He had given to those who came in the earlier hours (Matt. 20:9-16), and He explains that the last will be first and the first will be last. You see Jesus explaining this principle to the Pharisees who as Israelites had been the first to receive the good news but would not repent. So many of the gentiles were called into the Kingdom before they.

### **Everything is Grace**

Since Grace is God's unmerited favor for everyone and since the Lord desires everyone to be saved to come to Him and know the truth, He bountifully blesses everyone especially at the final hour. There are some Catholics who have been cradle Catholics all their lives. They have gone to Mass and to religious instructions and even attended Catholic schools and yet most of them in later lives meet a convert who outshines them in faith, knowledge of the faith and commitment. This had led many onlookers to explain “converts make the best Catholics.” In 12 step programs you see the principle also shining forth. Many a person whose life was shattered with various addictions, drugs, alcohol, perversion, make a sudden turnaround and have an adult religious conversion experience. They go on to become committed Christians within a short time even, outdistancing many others who never hit bottom.

### **The Principle In Nature**

It has been observed that a runner who suddenly takes up running daily for one year is soon pretty near at the level of another runner who has been running his whole life. Somehow the Lord has restored the years that the locust have eaten. It has been observed that a man who gives up smoking for a year pretty soon has his lungs restored to where they would have been had he never smoked. The Lord has restored the years that the locusts have eaten. It has been observed also that a person who diets vigorously for a year pretty soon has the proper weight and health of a person who for years had watched their diet. The Lord restored the years that the locusts have eaten.

### **A Powerful Example**

Bill W., the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, was a hopeless drunk. Many had talked to him about Jesus, but he never really listened. One day in a flophouse he went into alcoholic convulsions. He was terrified and he cried out to the Lord. Suddenly the room appeared filled with light. He felt a Presence that he never thought possible. Realizing that it was the Presence of the Lord his whole life was reviewed before him and he sincerely repented of the years that the locusts have eaten. Not only did he never drink again, but he went on to form one of the most powerful spiritual movements that the Church and civilization had ever known.

### **Another Example**

Billy Markham also was addicted to drink for years and years. He had lost his family and two young boys who were afraid of him. One day he too fell into a fit of alcohol convulsions, and he cried out to Jesus and felt inspired to return to My Father's House. He entered a rehab, took instructions on the faith, never drank again and watched in amazement as God restored his family and his relationship with his wife and children. The Lord restored the years that the locusts have eaten.

### **Nuttin But Us Sinners**

John Newton was hopelessly an evil pirate until he met the Lord. He went on to repent and wrote the beautiful song "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saves a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see." Have you ever met a person who does not relate to this song? There is a myth that there are two types of persons. Those who learn the easy way and the others who learn the hard way. In the final analysis any spiritual director or counselor will tell us that there are only sinners who learn the hard way. Each of us has been saved from sin and possibly hell by the Grace of Jesus Christ. And everyone of us can testify how the Lord has restored the years that the locusts have eaten.

## **A Poem and a Song**

This poem is a story a everyone.

There are golden apples to be picked.  
Green hills to climb  
Meadows to run when you're young.  
There are roaring rivers to be crossed  
Bridges to build  
Wild oats to sow as you grow.

Later on the other side of time  
Apples no longer taste sweeter than wine  
Bridges fall down  
Meadows turn brown  
Life falls apart and you're so alone.

Then comes the morning  
Christ comes with the new day  
Then comes the dawning  
Our God is with us to stay.

And so you see each one of us can witness to the principle of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the Lord restoring the years-that the locusts have eaten.

### **The Age of Mercy**

God loves us in the highest degree so much so even while we were yet sinners he sent His Son to die in our place in order to redeem us. You and I are saved by the unmerited Mercy of Almighty God. Sister Faustina and Pope John Paul II are two great apostles of God's Divine Mercy, that if we open our hearts to Him at any stage he floods them with His Grace.

### **The Punch Line**

Remember the thief on the Cross who stole Heaven at the final hour saying "Lord remember me when you come into your Kingdom" and Jesus answered "This day you will be with me in paradise." Those who do not understand that it is all Mercy and Grace might object, but Lord he didn't earn it and the merciful priest who understands Grace and Mercy to his fingertips would reply "Who does." They only thing we deserve because of our sins is punishment and possible eternal damnation. We gain Heaven by the Mercy of God and sometimes even in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

### **Three Very Beautiful Prayers For a Dying Person**

*There once was a Pope in Rome who was surrounded by many sins. The Lord God struck him with a fatal illness. When he saw that he was dying, he summoned cardinals, bishops, and learned persons and said to them: "My dear friends! What comfort can you give me now that I must die, and when I deserve eternal damnation for my sins?" No*

*one answered him. One of them, a pious curate named John said: "Father, why do you doubt the Mercy of God?" The Pope replied: "What comfort can you give me now that I must die and fear that I'll be damned for my sins?" John replied: "I'll read three prayers over you; I hope you'll be comforted and that you'll obtain Mercy from God." The Pope was unable to say more. The curate and all those present knelt and said an Our Father, then the following Prayers:*

### **Prayer One**

Lord Jesus Christ! Thou Son of God and Son of the Virgin Mary, God and Man, Thou who in fear sweated blood for us on the Mount of Olives in order to bring peace, and to offer Thy Most Holy Death to God, Thy Heavenly Father, for the salvation of this dying person...if it be, however, that by the sins he merits eternal damnation, then may it be deflected from him. This, O Eternal Father through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Dear Son, who liveth and reigneth in union with the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

### **Prayer Two**

Lord Jesus Christ! Thou Who meekly died on the trunk of the Cross for us, submitting Thy Will completely to Thy Heavenly Father in order to bring peace and to offer Thy most Holy Death to Thy Heavenly Father in order to free... (name of the person)... and to hide from him what he has earned with his sins; grant this, O Eternal Father! Through Our Lord Jesus, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in union with the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

### **Prayer Three**

Lord, Jesus Christ! Thou Who remained silent to speak through the mouths of the Prophets: I have drawn Thee to me through Eternal Love, which Love drew Thee from Heaven into the body of the Virgin, which Love drew Thee from the body of the Virgin into the valley of this needful world, which Love kept Thee 33 years in this world, and as a sign of Great Love, Thou hast given Thy Holy Body as True Food and Thy Holy Blood as True Drink, as a sign of Great Love, Thou has consented to be a prisoner and to be led from one judge to another and as a sign of Great Love Thou hast consented to be condemned to death, and has consented to die and to be buried and truly risen, and appeared to Thy Holy Mother and all the Holy Apostles, and as a sign of Great Love Thou hast ascended, under Thy own Strength and Power, and sitteth at the Right Hand of God, Thy Heavenly Father, and Thou has sent Thy Holy Spirit into the hearts of Thy Apostles and the hearts of all who hope and believe in Thee. Through Thy Sign of Eternal Love, open Heaven today and take this dying person... and all his sins into the Realm of Thy Heavenly Father, that He may reign with Thee now and forever. Amen.

*Meanwhile the Pope died. The curate preserved to the third hour, then the Pope appeared to him in body and comforted him. His countenance as brilliant as the sun, his clothes as white as snow, he said: "My dear brother! Whereas I was supposed to be a child of damnation, I've become a child of happiness. As you recited the first Prayer, many of my sins fell from me as rain from Heaven, and as you recited the second Prayer, I was purified, as a goldsmith purifies gold in a hot fire. I was still further purified as*

*you recited the third Prayer. Then I saw Heaven open and the Lord, Jesus, standing on the Right Hand of God the Father Who said to me: "Come, all thy sins are forgiven thee, you'll be and remain in the Realm of My Father forever. Amen!"*

*With these words, my soul separated from my body and the Angels of God led it to Eternal Joy.*

*As the curate heard this, he said: "O Holy Father! I can't tell these things to anyone, for they won't believe me." Then the Pope said: "Truly I tell thee, the Angel of God stands with me and has written the prayers in letters of gold for the consolation of all sinners. If a person had committed all the sins in the world, but that the three Prayers shall have been read (over him) at this end (death), all his sins will be forgiven him, even though his soul was supposed to suffer until the Last Judgment, it will be redeemed (freed). The person who hears them read, won't die an unhappy death, nor in whose houses they will be read. Therefore, take these prayers and carry them into St. Peter's Basilica and lay them in the Chapel named the Assumption of Mary, for certain consolation. The person who will be near death, who reads them or hears them read, gains 400 years indulgence for the days he was supposed to suffer in Purgatory because of his guilt. Also, who reads this Prayer or hears it read, the hour of his death shall be revealed to him. Amen!*

