



The First Step

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The meeting I was conducting that evening was large, with over one thousand people. As usual, after the lecture, there was a question and answer period. One of the questions collected from the audience read like this:

"My wife was angry with me because she saw me and my lady colleague have lunch together in a restaurant. She flew over here (to this meeting) and I followed her. I want to apologize and explain the situation to her. Do you think she will forgive me?"

The question was a hard one, but the Holy Spirit gave me wisdom at that moment. I addressed the audience, "Is the wife here tonight?"

Sure enough, a woman stood up, and then a man stood up, too. The man ran to the woman and embraced her. The audience burst into simultaneous Bravos and applause. I then led the whole audience in shouting, "Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"

This kind of event is very rare in our Chinese meetings, so everyone in attendance was impressed. The next day was Sunday, and I met the man again. He thanked me, but I said that I had done nothing; it was his courage to take the first step that solved his marital problems. On the contrary, I should thank him for that.

In our chauvinistic society, the man generally takes the first step to get in touch with a girl for dating, to propose marriage and to act as the head of family by scolding the wife and spanking the kids. Yet, when it comes to apologizing or showing love, he waits for the woman to act first. He thinks that this is the way to preserve his "big man" image. Isn't this a contradictory stance?

The Bible says that husbands should love their wives. Love is a prime mover rather than a passive recipient. Bible verses also mention that the fathers should, in compassion, spare their sons; turn the hearts of the fathers to their children; do not exasperate your children, etc. All of these examples indicate that the father is the active one.

Let's learn from the father of the prodigal son. This father was not sitting in the reception hall awaiting his son's return and expecting the son to kneel down and ask for forgiveness. Instead, this father was waiting at the front door and while the son was still far away, he ran to him, embraced him and kissed him over and over. This father undoubtedly represents our Heavenly Father and also show all men how to be an active father.

A truly great man is one who dares to take the first step to show love to his family and all those who are around him.

