

PRODIGAL

Lesson 7

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In this lesson we will finally be introduced to the third character in the story, the older son. What we are about to study is the climax of the story. The point of telling this parable is to examine the actions and attitudes of the older son. Here are two things we've already learned about the older son based on the parable.

1. The older son was expected to be a _____ between his father and brother.
2. The older son could have refused his portion.

Knowing this, what is Jesus telling us about the older son?

When we left off, the father called a celebration. The celebration _____.

Luke 15:25-28 (NIV)

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

With every verse, we learn more about the character of the older son. In verse 25, we learn the older son starts his journey _____. Both sons at some point are at a distance from their father. This means you can be in the house and still have a heart that's far from the father. Examine: Matthew 15:1-10.

The older son came near the house and heard the music and dancing. If you were coming home and heard music, dancing, laughing, and clapping what would your reaction be? Historians suggest the older brother asks a young boy in the yard what is going on. The community knows the father has chosen to throw a party, _____.

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Bailey argues the word translated for “safe and sound” is the Hebrew expression for _____. The word shalom speaks to wholeness and completeness. To say the father recovered the younger son with peace means this is not a report about the condition of the younger son, it is about _____.

Why is the older son angry? Be leery of people who get mad when God is good. The older brother is mad because _____.
Examine: Romans 12:15-18.

The older son acts as if nothing can go on in the house without him, but whose house is it? It's the father's house. Some of us act that way. God reserves the right _____. The older brother refuses to go in. Culturally the father is expected to send servants out to thrash the older son. The older son's refusal to go into the party would cause _____. This is evil, worldly and fleshly. When you exclude yourself because you can't have it your way, _____. I want to go to any party God arranges!