

PRODIGAL

Lesson 8

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In the last lesson, we were introduced to the older son. The anticipation would have been building with the audience as they listened to Jesus tell this story. The older son refused to go into the banquet feast. How does the father choose to respond to the older son's actions?

Luke 15:28-30 (NIV)

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

_____.

The father extends _____.

On the surface we may assume both sons are in the same amount of trouble. But that's not so. Who is in more trouble and why? _____.

_____. Remember Jesus tells this story in a "shame" culture. This is the same attitude the Pharisees demonstrate at the beginning of the story. But it also shows the love and concern God has for us. Examine: 2 Peter 3:9. The initial actions of the father were enough to change the heart of the younger son, but were they enough to change the heart of the older son? _____. The older brother has the wrong mindset. His mindset and attitude can be seen in the way he answers his father.

The older son was _____ (v. 29) The Bible says the father came out and pleaded with his older son. Examine verse 12. The older son addresses the father _____. This is designed to show us the lack of relationship between the father and the older son.

The older son was _____ (v. 29) Is this claim true? _____. We know the father didn't treat the older son like a slave because _____. Furthermore anything the older son does on the farm benefits him because the estate will eventually all belong to the older son.

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Jesus tells the story in a way that the audience would know that the older son is prone to exaggeration. The older son is more concerned about looking good in front of the crowd than he is about telling the truth. Jesus further explains in Luke 16:14-15. The older son says he has never disobeyed his father. The irony is _____

_____. Examine: John 18:28-32.

The older son is _____. (v. 29) What has the older son done to deserve a young goat? The older son wants the celebration to be about him. Often, we are willing to trade the blessings of God _____. Examine: Matthew 6:5-8; Matthew 19:27—20:16. The point of the parable of the laborers in the vineyard is that it's God's grace that allows us to _____.

The older son is _____. (v. 30) He wants to pin-point everyone else's sins and mistakes. The older brother tries to distance himself from his relationship with his brother. In distancing himself from the younger brother, he is also distancing himself from the father. Examine: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. We will have to give an account for the judgmental ways we have treated _____. The older brother is being judgmental because he has _____. This accusation is an attempt to assassinate his brother's character. His judgmental attitude causes him to misinterpret the reason for the celebration. I know we'd like to think we have never operated like this older brother, but we have and because of that, may God have mercy on all our souls.