

THE FATHER AND HIS TWO LOST SONS, PART 3

Luke 15:25-32

There are 2 erring sons in this story: 1 is prodigal; the other is _____. 1 errs in action; the other in _____. Act 2 (vv. 25-32) was directed to the _____ and scribes who believed that they were already righteous. Some Christians fall into this category when they believe that God blesses them because they are _____ in daily prayer and Bible reading or church attendance or because they don't smoke or drink or run around. We start Act 2 believing the older son is solid, but the more we know him, we discover he is _____ a good guy.

I. THE REVELATION OF THE OLDER SON'S HEART

When the older son came from working in the fields, he discovered a celebration with _____ and dancing. He investigated; he asked a servant several questions and discovered that his brother had returned _____.

A. _____ 15:28

- 1) The older son was angry because he believed that his brother deserved _____ not mercy.
- 2) The self-righteous believe they can deal with _____ based on justice, so everybody should have to _____.
- 3) He refused to go in to the party: his anger caused him to _____ his father and cut off his family.

B. _____ 15:29

- 1) In his conversation with his father, the older son never mentioned _____ or respect for his father.
- 2) He described his work for his father as _____: the self-righteous often see service as drudgery.
- 3) His remark about the goat indicates that his desires were no different than his brother's, he just kept it hidden better: he wanted to party with his friends without his _____ and brother taking part.
- 4) The older brother pointed to his faithful service as a way to _____ himself favorably to his brother.

C. _____ 15:30

- 1) The older son called his brother, "this son of yours": he wanted nothing to do with his _____.
- 2) His attitude reflected that of the _____ who were willing to cut off those whom Jesus received.
- 3) He accused his younger brother of spending his money on _____ but he had no evidence.
- 4) Perhaps he accused his brother of what he himself would have done if he had run to the _____.

Final Observation: we discover that there was no foundation for the older brother's claim of self-righteousness. The self-righteous have hearts no different than others; they just hide their sins beneath outward _____.

III. THE RESPONSE OF THE LOVING FATHER'S HEART *Luke 15:28, 31-32*

A. The Father _____ the Self-Righteous Son Also

- 1) The father "entreated" the older son rather than ordered him around; he called him _____.
- 2) Jesus was tougher on the Pharisees than any other group, calling them a brood of _____.
- 3) But this story indicates that God still loves the self-righteous and wants them to _____.

B. The Father _____ the Self-Righteous Son to Repent

- 1) The verb used in v. 28 pictures the father with his arm around his son's shoulder, _____ him.
- 2) The father calls the younger brother, "your brother" reminding him that they are _____ in his eyes.
- 3) The father defined what was truly "just": to make merry because his brother was back from the _____.