

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15:1-2

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

²⁸ “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ So he answered and said to *his* father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰ But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

³¹ “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³² It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”

Luke 15:25-32

The Elder Brother

First, the ostensible good:

- He is content-he stays when his younger brother goes (:12)
- He is working-he is in the fields (:25)
- He is loyal-he has served and always been with his father (:29, 31)

The Prodigal Brother

The not so good...

Self-willed

- *“He was angry and would not go in” (:28)*
- God speaks of delivering the godly but reserving punishment for the self willed (2 Pt. 2:10)
- A characteristic that must not be present in an elder (Titus 1:7)

Self-righteous

- *“I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time” (:29a)*
- We must not deceive ourselves (1 Jn. 1:8)
- Be careful not to pat ourselves on the back (2 Cor. 10:18; Rom. 12:3)

The Prodigal Brother

The not so good...

Self-centered

- *“you never gave me...”* (:29b)
- The attitude we need: *“you are better than me”* (Phil. 2:3)
- This is a demonic characteristic! (James 3:13-17)

Self-ish

- *“all that I have is yours”* (:31)
- Who am I living for? (2 Cor. 5:15)
- This is not a part of the Christian disposition (Luke 3:11)

Parable of the two sons

The Prodigal Son

- SELFISH: “give me”
- SINFUL: wasteful, immoral
- SUFFERING: in a pig pen, far off
- SEPARATED: away from father

The Prodigal Brother

- SELFISH: “you didn’t give me”
- SINFUL: hateful, unmerciful
- SUFFERING: inwardly far away
- SEPARATED: outside the feast

What he missed...

- ✓ What a sad outcome! Instead of a pity party he could have been part of the celebration party!
- ✓ Everybody in Luke 15 is happy in the end except one! The shepherd; friends; woman; friends; the father; the prodigal son; the servants. The only miserable person is the elder brother!

¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."