

- Luke 15:25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.
- 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.
- 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.
- 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.
- 29 And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:
- 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.
- 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.
- 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

He became angry: vs. 28

He did not want to go in: vs. 28

His father pleaded with him: vs. 29

He replied to his father, I have been slaving ... I never disobeyed your orders ... yet you never gave me a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends: vs. 29

This son of yours (not my brother ... your son!): vs.30

I. <u>The Igniting Explosion</u> (Luke 15:26-28) And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

He was not a waster, He was a worker.

The elder brother did indeed have some virtues which deserve respect.

Socially he had not brought reproach upon his father.

He had resisted all temptation to physical dissipation.

He was industrious and thrifty.

He despised slothfulness. He was the enemy of extravagance.

His conduct created no scandal.

He was the enemy of moral laxity.

He did not gamble.

He condemned lawlessness.

He required himself to abhor immorality.

He was entitled to all the credit that was due him.

A. Deeper Issues (Hebrews 12:15)Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Isaiah 5:24 Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Prov. 12:3 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

Prov. 12:12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

B. Darkness Inside (Proverbs 4:23) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

II. The Indignation Exposed (Luke 15:28-30) And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

- A. Selfishness
- B. Separation
- C. Shame
- III. The Instructions Explained (Luke 15:31) And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

- A. The Focus was Restoration
- B. Forgiveness was Rendered

C. The Father wanted a Relationship

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Thus both sons had revolted against their father, the younger from parental control, the elder from parental love. Each wanted the same thing: to have his own way.

One of the hardest things in the world is to stop being the prodigal son without turning into the elder brother.