

# The Prodigal

Luke 15:32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

1. The audience: **OUTCASTS** and the **RELIGIOUS**. vs.1-2
2. The story of the Shepherd and Widow.
  - a. Both **LOOK** & Both **CELEBRATE**. vs. 3-10
3. The story of the two sons.
4. The younger brother. vs. 11-24
  - a. I'm **OUTTA** here.
  - b. The party's over and only pigs and pods are left.
  - c. **REPENTANCE** and the **JOURNEY** home.
  - d. Robes, Rings and **RESTORATION**.
  - e. It's **PARTY TIME!**
5. The older brother. vs. 25-32
  - a. Angry with dad's generosity (*Look You!*).
  - b. Slaving & Obedience = You **OWE ME!**
  - c. This **SON** of **YOURS**...
6. UNCONVENTIONAL father. vs.12; 20; 22-24; 28 & 31
  - a. He **DIVIDES** up **ESTATE**.
  - b. **RUNS TO EMBRACE** his son.
  - c. **PLEADS** with older son.

## Digging Deeper:

1. Here are the two often traveled paths of **FULFILLMENT**: **SELF DISCOVERY** and **MORAL CONFORMITY**<sup>1</sup>. The road less traveled: Loving God for **WHO HE** is and embracing His **GRACE**.

2. Forgiveness is not **FREE**.
3. Is there another "**OLDER BROTHER**" in the story?
4. The kingdom of God is a **PARTY!**

<sup>1</sup> The terms "**self discovery** and **moral conformity**" - are borrowed from Tim Keller's excellent book, "The Prodigal God" (pg. 29-47).

## Take away:

1. We all need to **CONFESS** and return.
2. Never **GIVE UP** praying for **OTHERS**.
3. How do **YOU** finish the story?

## Notes:

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## Prodigal resources:

Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God* (Dutton 2008)  
*Life Application Commentary - Luke*, (Tyndale House Pub. 1997)  
Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (Doubleday 1994)  
Kenneth Bailey, *The Cross and the Prodigal* (IVP 2005)  
John Piper, <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/BySeries/68/>

[www.sierracommunitychurch.org](http://www.sierracommunitychurch.org)