

Prodigal: Two Sons, One Father (part 2)

Title: The Older Brother

Scripture Reading: **Luke 15:25-32**

Discussion Questions

1. Today we are in the second week of a two-week sermon series on the Prodigal Son story in the Gospel of Luke. Read this whole parable for yourself, keeping a special focus on the role of the Older Brother. Luke 15:11-32. What stands out to you as you read?
2. In the book of Genesis, we read about another set of brothers, the older Esau, and the younger Jacob. After stealing his brother's birthright, Jacob goes on a sort of self-imposed exile. In Genesis chapter 33 he returns home but is afraid of his brother and what might happen to him. Read this account for yourself. Genesis 33:1-5. What here is similar to the Prodigal Son story, and what is different? What can we learn from the contrast?
3. The Older Brother in Jesus' story has been faithful, staying home all these years and doing what was seen as "right." However, somewhere deep inside him he is just as lost as the younger brother. His lostness can be seen in his self-righteous judgment, condemnation, anger, resentment, bitterness, and jealousy. Do you identify at all with the struggles of the Older Brother? Why or why not?
4. Pray to our Father in Heaven that He would do the hard work of purifying you of any feelings you have that would cause you to identify with the Older Brother. It's not easy to get rid of such feelings, but our God is mighty and powerful, and only He is capable of changing us from the inside out.