

Passage –

Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ **28** But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, **29** but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ **31** And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ”

Slide 1

- The Older Brother
  - The Choice to reject
  - The Way of rejection
  - The Return to the Father?

Slide 2

- **The Older son’s rejection: Subtle, disrespectful life of Self-Righteous individualism.**

Slide 3

**How we can identify if we are walking in this way of rejection**

1. **We use the words “they” and “them” a lot**

Slide 4

**How we can identify if we are walking in this way of rejection**

1. **We use the words “they” and “them” a lot**
2. **What does your prayer life look like?**

Slide 5

**How we can identify if we are walking in this way of rejection**

1. **We use the words “they” and “them” a lot**
2. **What does your prayer life look like?**
3. **What’s your anxiety level?**

### **Study question**

- 1. Read Luke 15:25-32. What do you see in the relationship between the older son and the Father?**
- 2. Do you see the older son's rejection as clearly as the younger son's? Why or why not?**
- 3. Who do you see as the main antagonist in this story? Has your view of this changed through the years?**
- 4. Why do we choose the path of a transactional formulaic self-righteous relationship with the Father rather than a loving relationship built on confession and repentance?**
- 5. Take some time for your group to share and discuss**
  - a. The use of the words They & Them**
  - b. Where their prayer life is, how much of your prayer life is adoration, confession & thanksgiving?**
  - c. How is your anxiety level?**
- 6. What can we learn about Jesus in how he ends this parable?**