

The Son's Response

Main Idea: God's grace is "prodigal"—extravagant, reckless, and lavish—reaching both the "rebel" and the "religious" to bring them home.

Icebreaker

The "Steve Jobs" Loophole: Steve Jobs famously exploited a loophole to avoid having license plates on his car because he didn't like how they looked.

- If you had "spare no expense" money like Steve Jobs, what is one "extravagant" or "wasteful" thing you would buy just because you liked it?

Part 1: Redefining "Prodigal"

We usually use the word "prodigal" to mean "wayward" or "lost." But the dictionary definition is: *spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.*

1. In the story of the Two Sons (**Luke 15:11-32**), we see the son waste his inheritance. But how does the **Father** also act "prodigally" (extravagantly/recklessly) toward his sons?
2. Does it change how you feel about God to think of Him as "reckless" with His grace? Why or why not?

Part 2: The Search and Rescue Strategy

The sermon highlighted that Luke 15 contains three parables that represent the "SOPs" (Standard Operating Procedures) of the Trinity.

- **The Shepherd (Jesus):** Leaves the 99 to find the one. (**Luke 15:4-7**)
 - Why was it necessary for Jesus to "empty himself" (Philippians 2:5-8) to find us? What does that tell you about your value?
- **The Woman (Holy Spirit):** Lights a lamp and sweeps the house to find the coin. (**Luke 15:8-10**)
 - The coin was lost *inside* the house. Have you ever felt "lost" even while being in church or a Christian family? How does the Holy Spirit "sweep the house" of our hearts?
- **The Father (God the Father):** Pursues both the rebellious and religious, calling them to repentance.

Part 3: The Tension of the Two Brothers

Jesus was speaking to two groups: **Tax Collectors/Sinners** (The Younger Brother) and **Pharisees/Scribes** (The Older Brother).

The Younger Brother	The Older Brother
Openly rebellious and "unclean."	Obedient, hardworking, but bitter.
Spent his life in "sin."	Stayed home but lacked the Father's heart.
The Struggle: Feeling unworthy to return.	The Struggle: Resenting grace shown to others.

1. Which brother do you relate to more right now?
 - The one who feels they've blown it too many times?
 - Or the one who feels like they've done everything right and is frustrated when others get "blessed"?
2. The story ends with the Older Brother standing outside the party, angry. Why is "self-righteousness" just as dangerous as "wild living"?

Part 4: The Mission Continues

The sermon concluded with the idea that if God has a plan to save all of Israel and the nations (Romans 11:25-32), He can save anyone.

1. Who is the "Younger Brother" in your life (someone who seems too far gone)? How can we pray for them this week?
2. How can we, as a group, be more like the Father—running to welcome people rather than acting like the Older Brother—judging people?

Closing Prayer

- **Repentance:** Ask for forgiveness for areas where we've been "older brothers" (judgmental or bitter).
- **Request:** Ask the Holy Spirit to "sweep" our hearts and reveal our true worth in Him.
- **Mission:** Pray for one specific person you know who needs to experience God's prodigal grace.