

# FLYING IN THE FACE OF RELIGION

Lessons Learned from Jesus' Parables



## Part Three: The Prodigal's Brother

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### Outline & Study Questions

#### Outline

1. The older brother represents the Pharisees or any legalistic/rule-keeping person.
2. Responsible people can often succumb to resentment.
3. The older son's resentment caused him to live like a slave and not a son.
4. The older son was blind to his own sin, disrespecting his father like the younger son.
5. If we celebrate people coming to God, we will seek to know people outside of faith.

Going Deeper: use the following questions for personal reflection and/or to discuss with family, friends, and/or small group.

1. Read Luke 15:7,10,32. Note the similarities and differences of these three verses.
2. Restate the main point in your own words.
3. Talk/think about some of the feelings that you share in common with the older brother.
4. Based on your personality, are you more task oriented (high responsibility person) or more task averse (rather leave that to others)?
5. How did the older brother show disrespect to his father? How were the Pharisees like that to God?
6. How was the older brother the same as his brother? How was he different?
7. How did the father treat the older son similarly to the younger?
8. What are some other reasons that might keep you or others from celebrating sinners?
9. What does a church look like that does a good job of celebrating sinners?