



The Prideful Son Prodigal (Feb 24)

Series Summary: This three-week series focuses on the characters in the famous Parable of the Prodigal Son. It will examine each character's role and show how the Gospel comforts those who feel too far gone, but also challenges those who think an association with God is equal to truly knowing him.

Big Idea/Question: Do we love God's mercy even when it is directed to somebody else?

Get Them Talking: If someone were throwing a party for you, what is one thing that you would want to do? (Fun Activities, Food to Eat, Friends to Invite, etc.)

Luke 15:25-32 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 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.'"

Have you ever felt like the older son? Have you ever felt like your family, teachers, or maybe even God isn't treating you fairly?

Why did the father celebrate his son that left the family, spent his inheritance, and sinned greatly? What does this teach us about God?

What is wrong with the mindset of the older son? Shouldn't the father have thrown a party for him instead of the brother?

Leader Note: The older son was being self-righteous. He was pointing out that the younger brother did not deserve the Father's love and blessing. We can do the same today. We can buy into the lie that we deserve God's love, but not somebody else that did something that we think of as worse. We will be unpacking this more in the Large Group message.

How do we fall into the same trap (mindset) the older son did today?

What would you tell the older son in this situation? What does it look like to take that advice?

THE TRAP OF PRIDE

I think there are a couple of things we learn from the bad example of the Older-Prideful brother

#1 You did not earn God's love: Never buy into the lie that you have earned God's love. **We obey Him because HE has given his love and mercy freely.**

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#2 We all need God's Mercy: We have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Rom 3:23) and because of that we all need a savior. Your sin may be better hidden, but I promise It is still there.

#3 Self-righteousness is a dangerous sin pattern: That is part of the broken mindset of the Pharisees that cost them so much.

Luke 15:1-7 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he

calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.