

THE ELDER BROTHER SYNDROME

Series - "Amazing Grace"

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"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:3, NIV).

"He is even a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7:34, CEV).

Jesus said, "This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other" (John 14:35, MSG).

"And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; ¹⁸ and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God Himself" (Ephesians 3:17-19, TLB).

† **The word "prodigal" means "recklessly extravagant" (Webster's Dictionary).**

"And when he came to his senses . . ." (Luke 15:17, NIV).

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So 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" (Luke 15:25-28a, NIV).

"So his father went out and pleaded with him" (Luke 15:28b, NIV).

ELDER BROTHER TYPES . . .

1. **WANT THEIR FATHER'S _____, NOT THEIR FATHER'S _____.**

"But he answered his father, 'Look!'" (Luke 15:29a, NIV).

"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. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" (Luke 15:29-30, NIV).

2. **FEEL GOD _____ THEM.**

"'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found'" (Luke 15:25-32, NIV).

Signs of This Are:

(a) **They are _____ & _____.**

³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home . . . "

(b) **They question God's _____.**

"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 . . ." (Luke 15:29-30, NIV).

(c) They get _____, _____, & _____.

"The older brother became angry" (Luke 15:28, NIV).

3. PREFER TO _____ THAN _____.

"The older brother got so angry that he would not even go into the house" (Luke 15:28a, CEV).

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

*⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it"
(Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT).*

*"You save the humble, but Your eyes are on the haughty [the proud] to bring them low"
(2 Samuel 22:28, NIV).*

"You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty [prideful]" (Psalm 18:27, NIV).

"For the LORD . . . crowns the humble with salvation" (Psalm 149:4, NIV).

"He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble" (Pr. 3:34, NIV).

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-6, NIV).

† October 11 - "Hanging By A Thread"

† October 18 - Joe Car

† Next Series - Boot Camp (October 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22)

† Christmas Series - "It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!?" (November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 24).