

THE OLDER SON
Text: Luke 15:11-32

INTRO: This parable relates the story of 2 sons.

A. The younger, wasteful son represents the rebellious, the customs agents and immoral sinners.

B. The older son represents those whose sins were in attitude & disposition, esp. the Pharisees.

C. One son was lost in a far country--the other was lost in his own backyard.

D. One son was disobedient & immoral--the other was outwardly obedient & hard working, but he was unloving and unforgiving.

I. THE SINS OF THE OLDER SON.

- A. Angry without a cause, vs. 28
- B. Self-righteousness, self pity, vs. 29
- C. Full of envy, contempt, vs. 30
- D. Unforgiving, vs. 28-30

II. THE SUFFERING BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE SINS OF THE OLDER SON.

- A. The penitent son suffered the anger of his older brother.
- B. The father suffered from the older brother's attitude.
- C. The entire household must have suffered from the breach of fellowship, the strained relationship.
- D. But, most of all, the older son suffered. While everyone else partied, he was in misery.

III. THE FATHER'S KIND REBUKE.

- A. "Son." The sin of the older son had broken the fellowship that he had

with his father, but it could not separate him from his father's love.

B. The father reminded the older son of the blessings that had been his.

1. The fellowship that had existed.
2. The treasure that was his, vs. 31

C. An appeal to his sense of reason vs 32

IV. AS THE CURTAIN FALLS, WE SEE...

A. The penitent younger son on the inside

B. The older son on the outside.

C. Did the older son repent? Was he restored to the fellowship he had broken? The Master didn't say. All that was up to the older son himself.

D. His father's love was his primary hope, just as it had been for his erring brother before him.

CONCLUSION: God, our Father is loving & kind & willing to forgive our sins, but He expects that we do the same for our fellow man when he falls short, Matt. 6:15.

Cox Springs, TX, June 4, 1967

Springhill, LA, April 16, 1972

La Porte, TX, January 3, 1982

Exton, PA, November 26, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 7, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 19, 2005