

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:11-32

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¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” ²⁰ And he

arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against

heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And

bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For

this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’

And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15: 11-32

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²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Luke 15:11-32

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The People Listening (Context):

1. Religious
2. Unchurched
3. Younger Brothers
4. Older Brothers

The sons wanted the same thing:
"the Father's stuff" & freedom from the Father.

They had 2 different ways of getting what they wanted:

1. Obedience -- Moralism
2. Disobedience -- Self-Discovery



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“Do you realize, then, what Jesus is teaching? Neither son loved the father for himself. They both were using the father for their own self-centered ends rather than loving, enjoying, and serving him for his own sake. This means that you can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently.”

Tim Keller

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The younger son's request meant...

1. rejection of the father
2. a death wish for the father
3. disrespect of his father & disgrace of family
4. that the father had to tear his life apart at his own cost

...to which the Father had an unexpected response.



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Our response when rejected:

we get angry, retaliate, dive into self pity

This father maintains the affection and bears the pain of choosing to love a confused selfish son.



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We are divided in our pursuit of happiness

Moral Conformity People

or

Self-Discovery Journey People

These are lens we use to see life, to find significance and happiness and find a bit more space to explain the ills of the world and makes sense of life.

Religious divide the world by “good people” and bad people

Irreligious people divide the world by “self discovered people and
“self deceived people”

*Everyone is wrong
but everyone is loved,
and everyone is called to
recognize this and change.*

What we see is Jesus does not show up to the religious and say, "Great job, you got this figured out." Instead, he offends them and points out how their obedience is their escape from God.

And to the irreligious, he attracts them to see their pursuit of hopelessness in the name of happiness.

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