PRODIGAL

What we know

Young Brother wanted happiness; He wanted good things apart from his father so he rejected him and demanded that life reward him simply for existing.

Elder Brother was blind to his self-righteousness and rejection of the Father's invitation to come celebrate the return of his young brother. He lived from entitlement and anger toward those who were different.

God becomes useful, instead of Lord.

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

PRODIGAL

PRODIGAL

We are living as older brothers when...

1. God exists for our own needs
2. We get angry when life doesn't go our way
3. We redefine sin
4. We feel superior

All this in turn...

1. Creates a culture of hate
2. Creates an unforgiving spirit
3. Creates a judgmental culture
4. Creates deep insecurity

Who needed to hear this

1. The context had Pharisees who were asking "Why was Jesus hanging out with sinners?" *They needed to see how self-righteous they were.*

2. The younger brothers needed to hear that moralism was not the only way to God.

3. The older brothers needed to hear of their blindness that leads to destructive and self-destructive insecurities.

PRODIGAL

PRODIGAL

At a great cost, the Father...

- pays for the rejection his son gave him.
- endures the shame caused by the sons
- extends an invitation to a celebration paid by him
- pursues both the older brother & younger son
- responds to the issue at the heart: Him not stuff

The GOOD NEWS:
at a great cost, the Father
welcomes both the other son
and the younger son

PRODIGAL

The True Elder Brother

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO JESUS
an elder brother that goes to look for us.

EVERYTHING IS PAID BY JESUS
an elder brother who fully gives up his share for us to not be alienated.

EVERYTHING IS FULFILLED BY JESUS
an elder brother that fights for our place in the family.

EVERYTHING IS SURRENDERED BY JESUS
an elder brother that chooses us to be loved by God.

PRODIGAL