

Title: "Missing Out"

Text: Luke 15:25-32

Target: Today's message on the "elder brother" gives insight that we may be externally compliant in obedience, but internally defiant in disobedience. Thus, causing us to realize that we don't work FOR acceptance from the Father, but we work FROM acceptance with the father.

I. Painful Observation: Luke 15:25-28

- a. **Not Included:** *"was in the field"* (Vs. 25)
- b. **Not Involved:** *"called one of the servants and asked what these things meant"* (Vs. 26)
- c. **Not Inquired:** *"he has received him back safe and sound"* (Vs. 27)
- d. **Not Interested:** *"But he was angry"* (Vs. 28)
 - i. **Refuses Relationship:** *"and refused to go in"* (Vs. 28)
 - ii. **Reveals Righteousness:** *'Look, these many years I have served you'* (Vs. 29a)
 - iii. **Rejects Repentance:** *"I never disobeyed your command"* (Vs.29b)
 - iv. **Requires Recognition:** *"yet you never gave me a young goat"* (Vs. 29c)
 - v. **Ridicules Results:** *"But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!"* (Vs. 30)

II. Plea for Reconciliation: Luke 15:28-31

- a. **The Father Initiates:** *"His father came out"* (Vs. 28b)
- b. **The Father Intercedes:** *"and entreated him"* (Vs. 28b)
- c. **The Father Interrupts:** *"And he said to him, Son"* (Vs. 31a)
- d. **The Father Imparts:** *"you are always with me"* (Vs. 31b)
- e. **The Father Invests:** *"all that is mine is yours"* (Vs. 31c)

III. Practical Application:

a. **Clarification of Characters: Luke 15:1-2**

- **Prodigal Son:** *"tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him"* (Vs. 1)

- **Elder Brother:** *“Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Vs. 2)*
- b. **Comparison of Concepts: Luke 15:32:** *“It was fitting to celebrate and be glad for this your brother...”*
- **Prodigal Son:** *“dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found”*
 - **Elder Brother:** {alive, but dead, found, but lost}
- c. **Conclusion of Concern: Luke 16:1, 14:** *“He also said to the disciples...The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him”*
- **Unexpected Ending:** Causes Question...
 - **Unforeseen Explanation:** Causes Evaluation...

Take Away: There is a tension between two evils we must fight against daily; that is the propensity to be both the prodigal and the elder son interchangeably at any given point in our lives. Stay close to the father!