



Parables

“More Than A Story”

Luke 15

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.



¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.



1⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 1⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.



**17 “When he came to his senses, he said,
‘How many of my father’s hired servants
have food to spare, and here I am starving
to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my
father and say to him: Father, I have sinned
against heaven and against you.**



19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.



“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

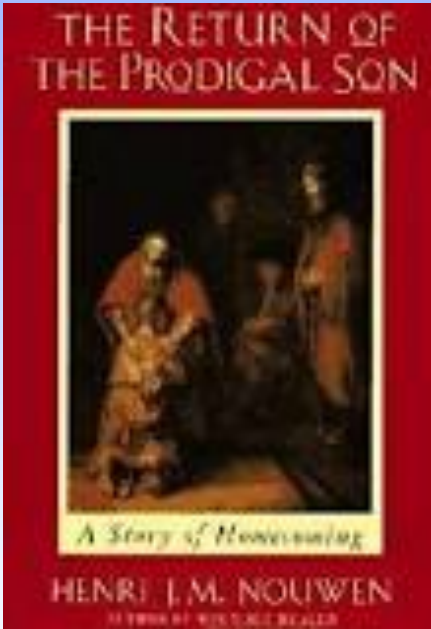


**22 “But the father said to his servants,
‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on
him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on
his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it.
Let’s have a feast and celebrate.**

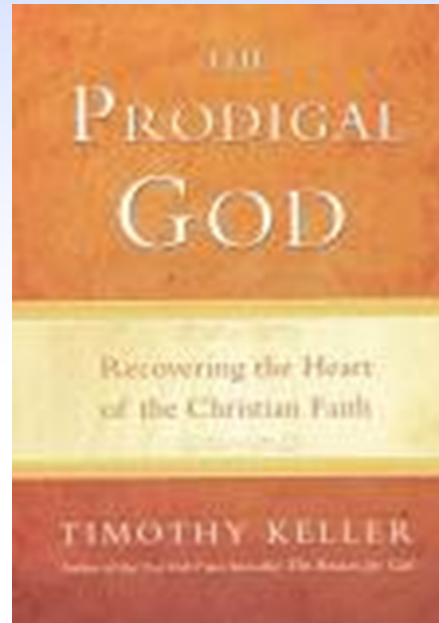


**24 For this son of mine was dead and is
alive again; he was lost and is found.' So
they began to celebrate.**



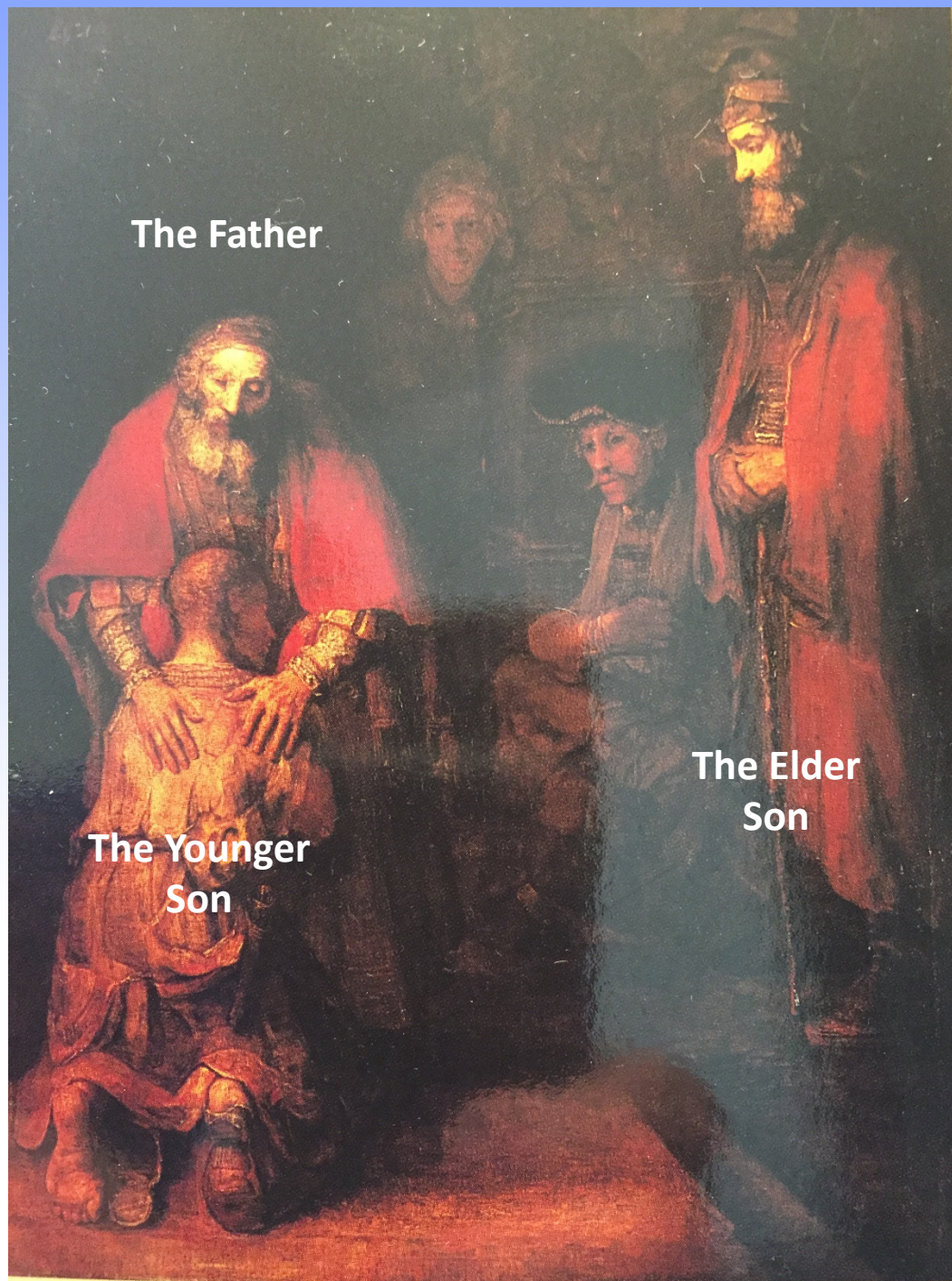


The Return of the Prodigal Son – Henri Nouwen



The Prodigal God – Tim Keller





The Father

The Younger
Son

The Elder
Son

Three Characters

- Younger Son – Sinners & Tax Collectors
- Elder Son – Pharisees
- Father – God



Luke 15

**12 The younger one said to his father,
'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So
he divided his property between them.**



The Younger Son

- Self Serving



Luke 15:13

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

The Younger Son

- Self Serving
- Self Destructive



“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’



**22 “But the father said to his servants,
‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on
him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on
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Let’s have a feast and celebrate.**



**24 For this son of mine was dead and is
alive again; he was lost and is found.' So
they began to celebrate.**



1⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 1⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.



The Younger Son

- Isolates himself
- Constant activity
- Distracts himself from his pain
- Numbs himself from his pain
- Feels lonely, without purpose, empty



Luke 15:18-19

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

Luke 15:18-19 (Paraphrase)

“Father, if you will apprentice me to one of your hired men, so I can learn a craft, I know I can’t come back and be your son but this way at least I can begin to pay you back.”

The Younger Son

- Self Serving
- Self Destructive
- Self Condemning



Luke 15:20-21

20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

Luke 15:22-24

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Grace – “Doing good to those that deserve the opposite.”



The Father

- Compassionate
- Selfless
- Gracious
- Lavish Love



The Father

- Compassionate
- Selfless
- Gracious
- Lavish Love



25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So 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.'



Luke 15:28-30

28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! 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. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

Luke 15:31-32

31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But 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 15:28-30

28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! 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. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

Elder Brother

Self Righteous



Elder Brother
Self Righteous
Angry



Elder Brother Self Righteous

- **Angry**
- **Entitled**



Elder Brother Self Righteous

- **Angry**
- **Entitled**
- **Believes Father is not Fair**



Elder Brother Self Righteous

- **Angry**
- **Entitled**
- **Believes Father is not Fair**
- **Believes Father is a Slave Driver**



Elder Brother Self Righteous

- **Angry**
- **Entitled**
- **Believes Father is not Fair**
- **Believes Father is a Slave Driver**
- **Judgmental**

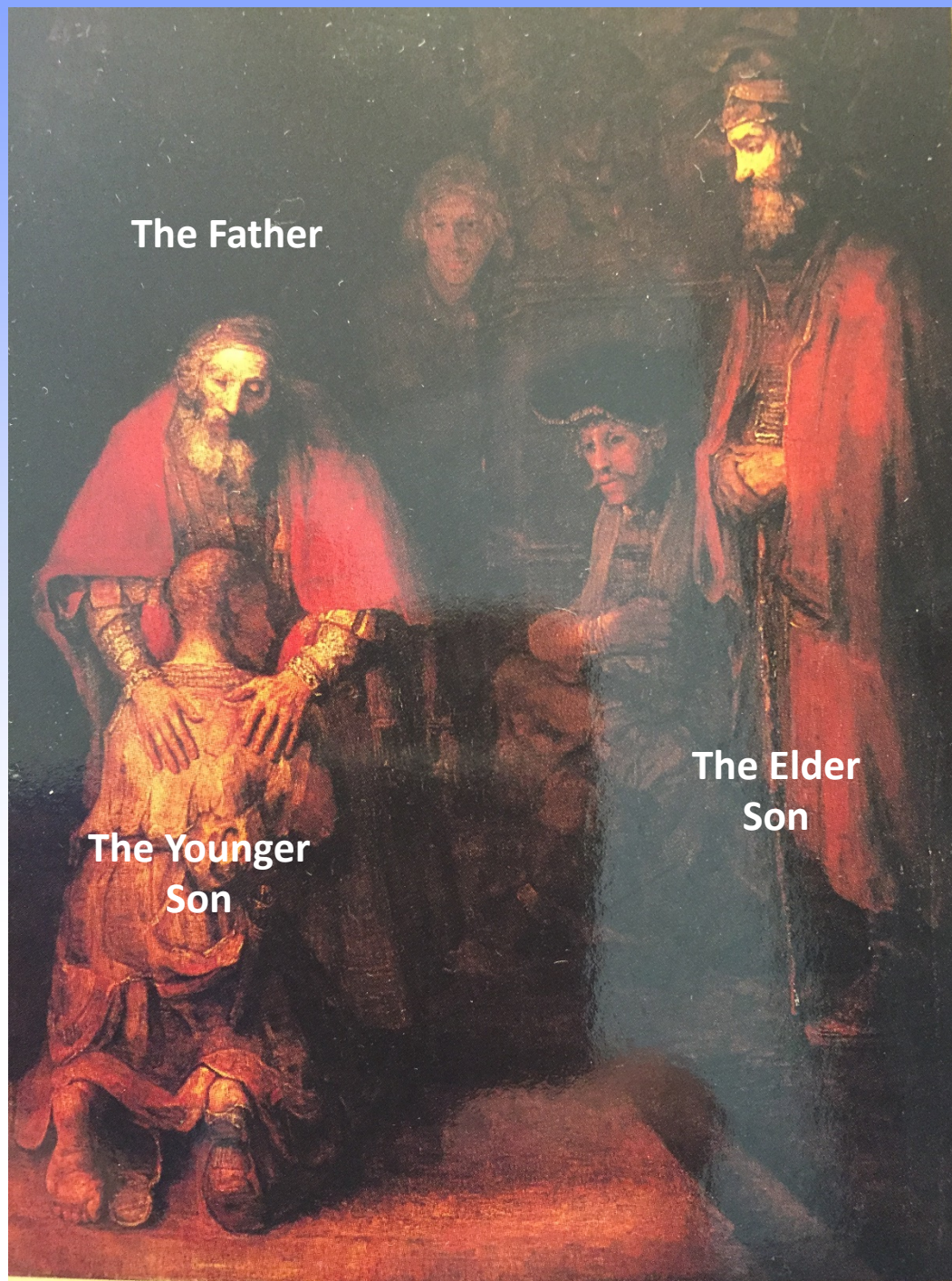


When you know that there is nothing you can do to lose or to earn your heavenly Father's love and you receive it and remain in it you will be filled with joy.



Romans 8:15-16

***“15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’
16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”***



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