

Luke 15:25-32
Am I One Of The Bitter Older Brethren?

It is easy to see ourselves as the prodigal;
How many of us can see ourselves as the elder brother?

David Guzik, Enduring Word Commentary

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1. Am I Suspicious Of Celebration? (v25-26)

Luke 15:25-32

**Am I One Of
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1. Am I Suspicious Of Celebration? (v25-26)
2. Am I Angry About Grace And Mercy? (v27-28)

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2. Am I Angry About Grace And Mercy? **(v27-28)**

The religious people of Jesus' day believed differently and even had a saying:
"There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who is obliterated before God."

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3. Am I Impressed With My Own Efforts?
(v29)

The publicans and sinners were guilty of the obvious sins of the flesh, but the Pharisees and scribes were guilty of sins of the spirit. Their outward actions may have been blameless, but their inward attitudes were abominable.

Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary

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4. Am I Frustrated By A Lack Of Recognition? (v29-30)

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4. Am I Frustrated By A Lack Of Recognition? **(v29-30)**

James 4

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

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4. Am I Frustrated By A Lack Of Recognition? **(v29-30)**

Matthew 6

5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

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5. Am I Blind To Future Rewards? (v31-32)

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5. Am I Blind To Future Rewards?
(v31-32)

The elder brother's response is even worse than modern readers might assume. Because the inheritance had been divided, the elder brother was already assured of his share, effective on the father's death; he had nothing to lose economically by his brother's return.

Craig S. Keener, The IVP Bible Background Commentary

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5. Am I Blind To Future Rewards?
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2 Corinthians 4

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. **17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, **18** while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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The same father who ran to meet the prodigal came out of the house of feasting to plead with the older son. How gracious and condescending our Father is, and how patient He is with our weaknesses!

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The final response of the elder brother is never stated, providing the Pharisees with the opportunity to repent if they are willing.

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