



coming
HOMED

JOIN THE PARTY
BRAD GRAY

Luke 15
pg. 1048

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Jesus' listeners would have made the connection that although the older son stayed, he was just as guilty as the younger son who left.

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“A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.”

Proverbs 29:3

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tax collectors
& sinners

younger
son

Pharisees &
teachers of Torah

older
son

Jesus

father

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The younger son represents those who are
lost but have been found.

The older son represents those who are
found but are lost.



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For the older son, he is lost on the inside.

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The intended relationship of father and son
became master and slave.

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He [Jesus] replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’”

Mark 7:6-7

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When you employ a works righteousness mentality in a grace-oriented home, you can become numb, bitter, angry, entitled, jealous, and judgmental.



“Lost sons sometimes have difficulty coming home because of their older brothers.”

Gary M. Burge, *Jesus, The Middle Eastern Storyteller*, 97

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Do you have joy?

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Joy is the litmus test of whether we're experiencing a thriving relationship with God or if we're a bit lost on the inside.

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“The parable sounds a note of joy that should mark disciples of the kingdom. If the kingdom is present and forgiveness is being dispensed, even if evil is still in the world, joy should characterize those who recognize what is happening. Christians sometimes are not a joyful lot. They either take faith for granted or forget what they have, or worse, like the elder son who hears music and does not want to get too close, they are suspicious of joy ...



... Joy is not an optional feature of the faith, nor can it be attained by smiling more and singing louder. It must emerge from an awareness of the mercy and forgiveness of God enacted in the kingdom.”

Klyne Snodgrass, *Stories With Intent*, 142

