



Sermon Notes: The Two Prodigal Sons

1. The younger brother's rebellion.

a. Selfish.

b. Senseless.

2. The Father's restoration.

a. Compassionate.

b. Celebratory.

c. Costly.

3. The elder brother's righteousness.

a. Selfish.

b. Senseless.

4. The true elder brother's reconciliation.

5. The hearer's response.



Application Questions: The Two Prodigal Sons

1. What did you notice about this story of “The Prodigal Son” that you never noticed before?
2. Do you identify more with the prodigal (and self-determination) or the elder brother (and moral conformity)? Why?
3. Who do you think our culture identifies with: the prodigal or the elder brother? Why? How do you think that impacts the way people view God, the Bible, and Christianity?
4. What does the prodigal ultimately want? What does he use to attempt to achieve this end?
5. What does the elder brother ultimately want? What does he use to attempt to achieve this end?
6. Referencing #4 and #5, how are the brothers different? How are they alike? What do you learn from this?
7. If you lived this story and your younger sibling was the prodigal, how do you think you would act upon his leaving? Upon his return?
8. In what ways is it almost more dangerous to be an elder brother than a prodigal?
9. Who does our church tend to attract the most: prodigals, repentant prodigals, elder brothers, or repentant elder brothers? Who did Jesus attract the most? What are some practical ways you think we could be more Christlike?
10. How is the Gospel good news for prodigals? How is it good news for elder brothers?
11. What one specific, practical thing will you do as a result of this message?