

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 – The Elder Brother

1. *We don't need to be in the Pigsty to be Lost*

- Parable of the *Two* Lost Sons
- The older brother isn't that different from the younger brother
- 2 lost sons in this parable – one of them looks very “bad” and the other looks very “good”
- The parable ends with the elder brother still lost
- Elder brothers don't realise they are lost

2. *Signs of Elder Brother-ishness*

- We may not be full-blown elder brothers but we can show characteristics and attitudes of elder brothers
 - a) **Being angry at God - v28**
 - Elders brothers believe that if they live a good life they should get a good life
 - When life doesn't go as planned or desired they respond in anger
 - b) **Feeling superior to Christians & non-Christians- v30**
 - Elder brothers pride themselves in their sense of worth
 - They look down on those who are different
 - c) **Obeying out of duty v29**
 - Elder brothers consider their faith as a joyless drudgery
 - They obey out of duty rather than a sense of beauty
 - Love the psalms
 - d) **A Dry prayer life**
 - Elder brothers have no intimacy or wonder in their prayer lives

3. *We have a True Elder Brother*

- Jesus is pleading with his enemies
- We were enemies (Romans 5:10)
- We should be melted and moved by what it cost to bring us home
- By putting such a warped elder brother in the story Jesus invites us to long for a true elder brother
- On the cross, Jesus **wasn't** treated like a son so that we could be
- Jesus pictures salvation as a meal (The Lord's Supper)

Westminster Larger Catechism

Question 171: How are they that receive the Lord's Supper to prepare themselves before they do so?

Answer: They that receive the Lord's Supper are, before they come, to prepare themselves, by examining themselves of

their being in Christ,

of their sins and wants;

of the truth and measure of their

knowledge,

faith,

repentance;

love to God and the brethren,

charity to all men,

forgiving those that have done them wrong;

of their desires after Christ,

and of their new obedience;

and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer.