



Study Guide

Summer 2012 Sermon/Study Series

www.rbcpc.org/prodigoal-party

“The Prodigal Party”

Week #3

July 21/22, 2012

The Prodigal Older Brother

Next week: July 28/29 – The Prodigal Daughter

Scripture Reference
Prodigal Party Series – Week #3
“The Prodigal Older Brother”

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

Luke 15:22-32

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.

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.’

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!’

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.’”

Notes:

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Scripture

Luke 15:22-32

1. Why didn't the older brother want to enter the celebration?
2. What would he have to do in order to not only enter the party, but enjoy it?
3. Both the good and bad sons in this parable were lost. One author suggests that Jesus is saying that a relationship with God is not about being good vs. bad but about being humble vs. proud. How would such an understanding change our lives?

Sermon

1. When have you been to an extravagant party? Was there someone there who was upset or angry? How did they impact the party?
2. Several times Neal said, “Hello, my name is Neal Nybo and I am an older brother.” Why do you think that would be important to admit?
3. Which of these “quid pro quo” expectations have you felt at one time or another?
 - I am doing God's work because I am a good follower of God.”
 - I have been through so much already; God won't put me through any more.
 - I'll do this so that God does that.

Life Application

God wants to have a relationship with you, not be controlled by you. Do you obey God because you will get something from Him or because you love him? What would it be like to lay your burdens down and simply seek a relationship with your heavenly father who has his arms open to you? What expectations or efforts to control God do you need to surrender?

Prayer

Pray that the Lord will show you an area in your life where you are religious and even judgmental toward others or yourself like the older son. Listen for where the Lord is inviting you to be part of a prodigal party this week.