

Lost & Found
Missing the Heart of the Father

Luke 15:25-32



May 31, 2026

_____ grows when we _____ God _____ us

Self-righteousness _____ us to our own _____

The Father invites _____ people _____, too

Questions to think about

1. When you picture the older brother standing outside the celebration, what do you think was really going on in his heart? What emotions do you hear in his words?
2. The older brother says, “I have been slaving many years for you.” Why is that statement so revealing? What does it show about the way he viewed his relationship with his father?
3. Have you ever had a season where your relationship with God felt more like duty than delight? What contributed to that?
4. Why do you think it can be easier to recognize obvious sins in other people than pride, resentment, or self-righteousness in ourselves?
5. The older brother struggled to celebrate grace being extended to someone else. Why can that sometimes be difficult for us, too?
6. Jesus leaves the ending of the story open. Why do you think He does that? What question do you think Jesus wanted the Pharisees—and us—to wrestle with?
7. The father goes out to both sons. What does that teach us about the heart of God toward rebellious people and religious people alike?
8. One line from the message was: “It is possible to be near the things of God while drifting from the heart of God.” What are some warning signs that this may be happening in someone’s life?
9. What would it look like practically for you this week to move closer to the Father’s heart instead of standing outside the celebration like the older brother?