How To Avoid The Older Brother Syndrome

October 4, 2020
The Prodigal Son Teaches:

- The Importance Of A Personal Inventory Time
- Life In A Pig Pen Can Bring Us To Our Senses
- Two Wrong Attitudes:
  1. Thinking His Provisions Would Protect Him
  2. Living For Here & Now Rather Than The Future
How To Avoid The Older Brother Syndrome

SYNDROME = “SIN-DROME”

READ: Luke 15:11-32

Problems Of The Boys And Their Father

• Younger Son = Rebellion & Rejection

• Older Son A Diseased Attitude (Heart) That Questions the Father’s Nature
How To Avoid The Older Brother Syndrome

The Sins Of The Prodigal’s Brother

- He Is Not Happy
- He Is Offended
- He Is Dismayed
- He Doesn’t Have The Heart Of The Father
- He Refuses To Enter The Joyful Celebration
- He Harbors Attitudes That Keep Him From Communion With The Father
How To Avoid The Older Brother Syndrome

- He Wasn’t In Touch With The Father’s Heart
- Being Out Of Touch With The Father Will Cause You To Miss His Heart
- He Didn’t Realize How Much His Father Wanted His Prodigal Son To Return
- Instead Of Trying To Gauge His Father’s Reaction He Questioned His Father’s Actions.
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

- Many People In The Church Are Close To God In Proximity--- But Far From Him In Their Hearts.
- They Miss The Father's Heart To Welcome Back & Restore Prodigal Children Who Are Returning To The Father’s House
- We Need To Rejoice With And Encourage Prodigals Who Come Home
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

- Do Not Dismiss
  - Jealousy
  - Opposition
  - Grudges
  - Skepticism Towards The Father

- They Are Heart Attitudes That Kept The Older Brother From The Father’s Best
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

- Sins Of Bitterness And Wrong Attitudes Can Sneak Up And Defeat You

- Do Not Be Like The Older Brother --
  - Looks Like The Family
  - Dresses Like The Family
  - Hangs Out In The Home With The Family
  - Does Everything Like The Family

- But Doesn’t Have The Heart Of The Father
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

- The Sin Of Self-Righteous Jealousy
- This Sin Says: “My Righteousness Makes Me Better, More Important, And More Deserving Than My Brother.”
- A Works Based Faith That Ignores God’s Grace
- This Is A “Speck & Beam” Problem
- He Points Out His Brother’s Obvious Sins
- He Ignores His Own Cold Heartless Position
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

• In His Self-Righteousness He Thought “I Can't Be Happy For You -- If It Costs Me”
• You’ve Had Your Time -- It’s My Time Now
• He Liked It When It Was Just Him And The Father
• Our Righteousness Is Not From Our Own Goodness
• There But For The Grace Of God --We All Go
The Sin Of An Offended Spirit

• “The Work Of God Is Hindered By Offended Brothers And Sisters Who Aren’t Willing To Celebrate The Victory And Life-change Of Another”
A Negative, Critical Or Grumbling Spirit

- (Phil 2:14 NIV) Do everything without complaining or arguing, (15) so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

- When We Have All Of These Great Benefits Of Being Brought Into The Father’s Family, How Can We Grumble / Criticize / Get Negative / Even For A Moment When He Brings Someone Home Who Has Been Away?
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

• Revived Hearts Find Enough In Jesus To Keep Them Praising

• Complaining Kept An Entire Generation Out Of The Promised Land
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

The Offended Spirit Caused The Older Brother

- To Grumble When It Was Time To Glory
- To Exaggerate His Own Righteousness
- To Feel Sorry For Himself
- To Forget All He Had As A Son Of The Father
- It Is Time To Stop Being Offended And Start Celebrating – Prodigals Are Coming Home !!
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

The Sin Of A Compassionless Heart

- Unmoved When His Brother Returned
- Didn’t Care About His Missing Brother
- Didn’t Care About His Brothers Condition
- Didn’t Care That His Brother Was Starving
- His Heart Was Stone Cold
Things That Keep Us From The Father’s Party

- **We Must Guard Our Hearts From The Lack Of Compassion**

- **Lack Of Compassion** = Your Relationship With The Father Isn’t What It Should Be
How To Avoid The Older Brother Syndrome

- The Bottom Line Is *The Father Cares*

- God Wants Us To See Our Brothers And Sisters Through -- *All The Way To The Finish Line*