

1-Briefly contrast:

- 1-The younger son.
- 2-The elder son.

2-Those represented by the elder brother.

- 1-The Pharisees and the Scribes.
  - 1-Although these men had not left the Church,
  - 2-Although they put in their appearance at the temple----They never were happy in their religion.

3-Nominally at home-----The elder son is yet from home. Verse 25.

- 1-The elder son was always at work in the fields..
- 2-He seemed to be happiest when away from the father.
- 3-The self-righteous spirit is after all an isolating spirit.....

1-Read Luke 18+9-14. The Pharisee and Publican

4-The merry-making at home distresses him.26-30.

- 1-He first asks an explanation of the unusual mirth at home.
  - 1-He called one of the servants to ask about the music...Likely all right to enquire... in the right way.
  - 2-The wrong way was used:
    - 1-He did not go into the house but -called one of the servants.
    - 2-A holier than thou complex.....

5-When he had ascertained the purpose of the merry-making:

- 1-He burst into a fit of censoriousness of the most exaggerated character....
  - 1-He accused the father of favoritism in receiving the penitent child.Verse 28. He was angry....
  - 2-He refuses to be a party to such merry-making. Verse 28; He would not go in. (Remind me of people who think they are to go to associate with the wicked people who go to church.

*It exposes the gloomy Pharisaic spirit which with some power for religion.*

6-The godless spirit manifest itself within him.

- 1-Verse 29:
  - 2-He has been a faithful and faultless servant.....HE THINKS.....
  - 3-In spite of his faithfulness----he has never got even a kid to make merry with his friends...He had received his portion of the estate:(He divided unto them his living Verse 12.)

7-Because of his warped and jealous spirit he was unable to rejoice over the return of the lost.(Verse 30)

- 1-His father's expostulations were all vain, although they should have been convincing. (Read verses 31-32)

2-Joy over recovery of the lost is one of the necessities of an unwarped nature.

1-Luke 15:7....

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

8-May the broken heartedness of the prodigal be ours-----

And never the heartlessness and censoriousness of the elder brother.

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