

Jesus on Rebellion, Forgiveness, and Jealousy

A Sermon by Derek Sanford

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Luke 15:12-32

The Younger Son's Rebellion (:12-24)

Four Statements of Rebellion

- a. **I'm choosing to live as if my Father were dead (:12)**
"There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them..."
- b. **I'm selling my inheritance to the highest bidder (:13a)**
"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country..."
- c. **I'm spending my long-term happiness on fleeting pleasures (:13b)**
...there squandered his wealth in wild living...
- d. **I'm trading sonship for slavery (:14-16)**
After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

The Way Home (:17-20)

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!' 'I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father.

The Rest of the Story (:20-24)

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "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. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

The Older Son's Jealousy (:25-30)

Luke 15:29-30 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. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

Acts 17:25 -God is not served by human hands as though he needed anything, for he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything.

The Father's Forgiveness (:20-24; 31-32)

Things a Middle Eastern Dad Would Never Do:

- a. **Divide Up His Estate Early**
- b. **Run**
- c. **Cancel the Shunning Ceremony**

31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'