

Life On Mission

A TALE OF TWO SONS

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Luke 15:25-31

Luke 15: 1

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

JESUS LOVES SINNERS AND MOTIVATES THEM TO CHANGE

Matthew 9:12

Luke 15:22-24

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.

Luke 15:25-27 (NIV)

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.'

So how do you know if you have OBS? Older Brother Syndrome.

Luke 15:28-30

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 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!'

So how do you know if you have OBS? (Older Brother Syndrome)

1. WE SAY, "WHAT ABOUT ME?"

The Antidote to OBS:

KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING!

Luke 15:7 (NIV)

"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent."

How do you know you have OBS?

2. WE SAY, "I'M BETTER."

Luke 15:29a

... 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders....

Luke 18:10-14

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'"

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Antidote to OBS:

REMEMBER WE ALL NEED SOME GRACE

How do you know you have OBS?

3. WE FORGET HOW GOOD WE HAVE IT

Luke 15:29

"But he answered his father, 'Listen, for all these years, I've been working like a slave for you and I've never disobeyed your command, yet you've never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.'"

Luke 15:31 – 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'

The Antidote to OBS Is Knowing:

HOME WITH THE FATHER IS THE ONLY PLACE TO BE!

ALWAYS HAS BEEN – ALWAYS WILL BE.

Take Aways:

- YOU CAN'T BE UNRIGHTEOUS ENOUGH TO BE OUT OF HIS LOVE
 - YOU CAN'T BE SELF-RIGHTEOUS ENOUGH TO BE OUT OF HIS LOVE
 - NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU.
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