

Why The Pharisees Resisted The Father's Love

And he was angry and refused to go in.

LUKE 15:28

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Let's look again at the Lord's most famous parable—the prodigal son.

The younger son broke his father's heart by leaving.

The older son broke it by staying.

Yes, he stayed home—
did the work,
kept the rules—
while his heart stayed stiff—
never open to love.

Yes—he never ran to the far country,
never squandered a fortune,
never touched a pig—
and clearly he believed he—not his brother—
had earned a feast.

He proudly wore duty like armor—
a shield that kept joy from touching his heart.

He didn't want his brother restored.
He wanted his brother's party.
He wanted honor for his compliance
and his brother shamed for his defiance.

Jesus wasn't just exposing the prodigal.
He was exposing the Pharisee—
the one close to the house
yet far from the Father.

"If you were blind, you would have no sin;
but now you say, 'We see.'"
John 9:41

The Pharisees resisted the Father's love
because they trusted their goodness
more than His grace.

Their certainty became their blindness,
their confidence became their chains.

The older son wasn't lost because he disregarded the Father.
He was lost because he believed he hadn't.

Two sons.

One ran away.

One stood outside.

Both needed rescue.

Only one knew it.

You may not know this about Jesus:
the Father's love was hardest for the ones who never left.

How does the older brother warn us
that self righteousness can turn our hearts judgmental instead of loving?

It means knowing I always need rescue from
the blindness I'm unaware of.

Father, open my eyes to my need
and Your loving provision. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.