

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Learning from the Parables & Practice of Jesus (Part 2)

*At the Core of the Kingdom is a King
with the Heart of a Loving Father*

The Sequel to the Story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:25-32)

- A. Reprise of Part 1
- B. Major Scene Change in Part 2

"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.'

- A. Just on the basis of your own life experience, what do you think the older brother feels here? And why?

(28) "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. (29) 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. (30) But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

- A. It is almost impossible to understand a "conversion" or a miracle of divine grace from the "outside"
- B. How does the Father react to his outburst?
- C. Who in Jesus' audience do you think He was addressing with this figure of the older son?
- D. How have you come to the Father? Was it more like the younger or the older son?

(31) " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

- A. Where is the joy in the elder brother's faithfulness?
- B. What is the source of the elder brother's boredom and discontent?
- C. What could the elder brothers among us do differently?

(32) But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "