

The Empty Chair at Thanksgiving

Luke 15:25 “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.’

Luke 15:28 “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!’

Luke 15:31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 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.’”

Consider the Reasons for an Empty Chair

Why Did the Older Brother Refuse to Go In?

1. He felt that he had been left “_____ of the _____.”

Luke 15:25 “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.

2. He failed to understand the _____ of the celebration!

Luke 15:25 “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.’

3. He did not keep his _____ under _____ and so was unreasonable.

Luke 15:28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in.

4. He _____ for his father.

Luke 15: 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.

5. He saw his work as _____.

Luke 15: 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.

6. He understood his relationship with his _____ as one of “_____” instead of as a son.

Luke 15: 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.

7. He could only see what his _____ was receiving even though he had _____ to _____ things.

Luke 15:30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

8. He refused to recognize his _____ as his _____.

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

9. He judged the _____ of his brother and held a bitter _____ towards him.

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

How Does the Father Respond to this Arrogant and Ungrateful Son?

1. He _____ out to _____ him.

Luke 15:28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

2. He _____ with his son.

Luke 15:28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

3. He _____ his son of his _____.

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

4. He reminds his son of the _____ for the celebration.

Luke 15: 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.’”

Our Lessons?

1. Don’t forget the _____ of the holiday season in the midst of the _____ of the season.

2. Don’t _____ your “blessings” with the blessings of others.

3. Remember and _____ the joy of serving your Father!

4. Remember that your Father seeks you out and wants you to find _____ in physical and spiritual _____.