



**St Helen's  
St Edmund's**

## Isn't following Jesus all about following rules?

### Luke 15:1-2 & 11-32

Read Luke 15:1-2 & 11-32. Pray that God's Spirit would help you to understand and apply the passage to your own lives.

1) Generally there are 2 types of people: policemen/women and robbers, rule keepers and rule breakers. Which one most naturally describes you?

2) Notice how Jesus tells the parables in this chapter to both groups - look at verses 1 & 2. Younger brother = tax collectors and sinners. Older brother = Pharisees and teachers of the law.

3) How do the Pharisees feel about Jesus spending time with 'sinners' (verse 2)? Why do you think they feel the way they do?

4) 'Jesus' parables creates something of a crisis for the thoughtful listener. He has vividly portrayed both of the world's two spiritual paths, the basic ways each offers for finding happiness, relating to God, and dealing with our problems. However, he exposes them both as profoundly mistaken, as dead ends. He clearly wants us to

take some radically different approach, but what is it?'<sup>1</sup> Let's look at each brother in turn to consider further.....

5) **Younger brother:** Look again at verses 11-24. Follow the journey of the younger brother:

- What are the high points?
- What are the low points?
- What surprises you?
- How does his Father react when he comes home?

If you more naturally relate to the younger brother what does Jesus want you to grasp about yourself and your heavenly Father?

6) **Older brother:** look again verses 22-32. Follow the journey of the older brother and what's going on in his heart:

- Why does he feel so angry?
- Do you think he really loves his Father?
- Does he love the things his Father loves?

If you more naturally relate to the older brother what does Jesus want you to grasp about yourself and your heavenly Father?

7) So what is the radically different approach Jesus wants us to take?

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<sup>1</sup> Tim Keller, *The Prodigal God: Rediscovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*, p 72