



High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study

Fall 2023 Study – *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller

Chapter 4: Redefining Lostness | Tuesday, October 3, 2023

This fall we're conducting a series based on Tim Keller's book, *The Prodigal God*. It's a powerful book that communicates how much God loves us and the power in understanding that love. It's a brilliant twist on one of Jesus' most famous parables, known by most as *The Prodigal Son*. Provided below is our schedule for this series that will cover seven weeks.

- Chapter 1 The People Around Jesus August 22
- Chapter 2 The Two Lost Sons September 5
- Chapter 3 Redefining Sin September 19
- **Chapter 4 Redefining Lostness October 3**
- Chapter 5 The True Elder Brother October 17
- Chapter 6 Redefining Hope November 7
- Chapter 7 The Feast of the Father December 5

Questions

1. Re-read Luke 15:1-2, 11-32. With does it mean to be spiritually lost? Think in terms of what we observe in the lives of both the younger and older brothers.

2. A challenge that exists in the life of the older brother is that because of his obedience he feels a sense of entitlement and that he is "owed something" because he's honored his father more than his younger brother. What are some of the dangers for us when we exhibit these traits in our relationships with others and God?

3. It is extremely powerful (and important) to pick apart attitudes that Jesus identifies, or at least insinuates, with the brothers. Review the table on the following page and provide answers as to how the brothers might have viewed themselves, each other, and their father.

4. Joy is an extremely important part of a Believer's life and is identified as a Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. On page 65 Tim states the following, "Another sign of those with an 'elder brother' spirit is joyless, fear-based compliance."
 - a. How can obedience based on duty, and not love, rob our joy as Believers?

 - b. Is it possible for the joy often seen in repentant younger brothers to contribute to resentment and disdain on part of the older brother?

5. How can we apply insights from tonight's lesson to be more like Jesus in our own lives?

How does the older brother view...	himself?
	his brother?
	his father?
Initially at the start of the parable, how does the younger brother view...	Himself?
	his brother?
	his father?