



High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study

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

Chapter 5: The True elder Brother | Tuesday, October 17, 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. Of the older brothers you have known, or have been, does Jesus' description of the elder brother match what you have observed or experienced?
2. One of the concepts presented in this Chapter 5 of *The Prodigal God* is that "we will never find God unless He first seeks us." How has this been true in your own experience? Also, can you provide example from the Bible where this has been demonstrated? A good example is the story of Zachaeus and how Jesus called him down from a sycamore tree. That single call and event changed the very trajectory of Zacheus' life.
3. Unfortunately, sin is part of our lives. We are always drawn towards sin and disobedience. I would argue the defining characteristic of a mature follower of Jesus is their ability to resist temptation and flee evil. Often times "older brother" Christians makes excuses for their sins through rationalization and excuses. What is the root of sin (or roots of sin) and what can we do to dismantle it in our lives?
4. Forgiveness always comes at a cost. How is this truth observed in this parable? Think in terms of the costs for:
 - a. The younger brother:
 - b. The elder brother:
 - c. The father:
5. How can we apply insights from tonight's lesson to be more like Jesus in our own lives? Think in terms of Jesus being our "true elder brother" and how that impacts the way we should live our lives.