

Scripture: Luke 15
Singing: 238:1-3 – 435:9 – 235:1-3 – 179:1-4 – 84:1-2

Intro: The Gospel within the Gospel of grace (Luke 15)

A. Who is the main focus of the parable?

B. What is the main intention of this 4-part parable?

1. to shatter the fears of the *younger son*

2. to shatter the thinking of the *villagers*

3. to win the heart of the older son

THE FATHER'S GRACE REJECTED BY THE ELDER BROTHER

I. The elder brother shamed his father for showing grace

II. The elder brother loved by his father in his grace

III. The elder brother rejected his father's grace

IV. The elder brother is entreated more tender than the other son

I. The Elder brother shamed his father for showing grace

A. The story line of the elder brother

1. He was ignorant of all what took place (vs. 25)

2. His reaction to being informed about his father's grace (vs. 26-28)

a. He heard his brother has returned

b. He heard that his father had restored him

c. He explodes with anger at this show of grace (vs. 28)

II. The elder brother loved by his father in his grace

A. The father's response was culturally as unusual as vs. 20-22

1. His father again showed grace in the very approach of his son: vs 28b

II. THE ELDER BROTHER REJECTED HIS FATHER'S GRACE

A. His explanation of his rejection is loaded with rebellion (vs. 29-30)

B. What are the reasons of this rebellious refusal?

1. His heart that is blind for himself – blind for his own sins

2. Our heart can be like *younger or elder son*

III. THE ELDER SON IS ENTREATED EVEN MORE TENDER THAN THE YOUNGER ONE

A. The father made a 'gracious choice' (1 Peter 4:8)

B. Jesus left the parable unfinished: but history wrote the last verse: Luke 23:1

Take away reflections

A. Do I see myself in need of grace or am I (secretly) of the elder brother's mindset?

B. Are we willing to show grace and even seeking to show sinners this?