

Lost son = tax collectors & sinners

Father = Jesus

Elder brother = Pharisees

Legalism always produces bitterness.

When you live under legalism everything in life is simply debt, duty and payment.

Legalism asks 3 questions: How much do I owe? What do I have to do? How can I pay for it?

Bitterness is connected to envy and selfishness.

If we cannot rejoice over the salvation of sinners – sinners who have done us wrong, it is a sign that bitterness has grown and our hearts have been hardened.

Jesus is a good elder brother.

### **Questions for reflection/discussion:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Have you ever paid attention to the fact that this parable is about *two* lost sons? Why or why not?
3. Of the two ways of being lost (younger brother types and older brother types) which way do you tend toward?
4. What makes both sons equally lost?
5. Have you ever become bitter over grace extended to someone else? If so why?
6. How is Jesus the true older brother to us lost brothers and sisters?
7. How can I pray for you?



**Sunday, April 14, 2019**

**Series:** Ashes

**Speaker:** Rev. Daniel Johnson

**Title:** The Elder Brother

**Text:** Luke 15:11-32

3 Characters of the story

1. Lost son
2. Loving father
3. Legalistic older brother

Main point of the parable: It is fitting to celebrate when lost things are found! (Verse 32).

The older brother is the focus of the story.

Luke 15 gives us 3 in 1. 3 stories in 1 parable:

1. The Lost sheep
2. The Lost coin
3. The Lost son

What is added in the 3rd story? The older Brother.

In all the stories that come before, something is lost, and someone goes looking.

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