The Parable of the Two Sons, part 4: "The Moralist: Famine amidst Plenty" Luke 15:11-32

1. A Particular Test for the Moralist: The repentance and reception

Jesus in this parable portrays the hard life of the moralist

(1) His heart and true disposition exposed

- The moralist is not always easy to spot Why? - To all appearances, he is "the obedient one"

(3) He has lived in a house of grace all of his life, but has never tasted grace!

"Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours."

3. An Evident Despising of Repentant Sinners (AKA: true saints!)

- (1) He thinks himself *superior* to the returning sinner "this son of yours...w
 - He has obviously "out-performed" him!

"this son of yours...who has devoured your livelihood with harlots"

(2) He resents the repentant sinner (in part) because "he got away with it."

- No penalty for his sin!
- The father received him as soon as he came.
 - He did not require him to establish a record of righteousness first!

(3) His is actually a life isolated from the true fellowship of the saints

2. "Never a Party" for the Moralist!

"Lo, these many years I have been serving you."

of the returning sinner

"But he was angry and would not go in"

- (1) The "inward famine" of mere outward conformity
 - It is mere outward conformity; not a thing of the heart
 A life of hard work!
 - The commandments of God are burdensome

Further Application:

(2) The inability to rejoice in grace or to taste of the father's love

"you never gave me a young goat that I might make merry with my friends"

"I never transgressed your

commandments at any time"

- Having never tasted of grace himself he cannot rejoice in it when it is shown to others.

- He does not believe that he has need of grace

- (2) He cannot rejoice
 - In the recovery of one that was lost

- He is a "conformist"

- In true repentance
- In grace freely given