

**Articles and Sermons :: Only Acknowledge Your Sin by Zac Poonen****Only Acknowledge Your Sin by Zac Poonen - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/11/2 15:20**

In Luke 15, in the case of the elder son, the father went outside the house and pleaded with him repeatedly; but the older boy would not yield. Jesus left the story open-ended at this point, leaving it to our imagination to decide what happened to him finally.

There are two possibilities: Either he may have yielded to his father's pleadings and finally come back home, with his head held high; or he may have rejected his father's pleadings and gone out into the darkness. Whichever way he may have chosen, he lost the place of honour in his home, for that had already been given to his younger brother. The father had already given his ring and the seat at his right hand to his younger son.

There is a vast difference between "prodigal sons" and "elder brothers". Prodigal sons are convinced of their sin on their own and repent deeply and seek no place of honour in the church. They only want to be slaves until the end of their lives. They are truly broken. "Elder sons", however, have to be repeatedly spoken to, before they are convinced. And even when they are convinced, they seek to come back to their place of honour in the church - as kings and not as slaves.

King Saul knew that he had sinned; but he wanted to confess his sin privately to Samuel. He told Samuel, "I have sinned; but please honour me now before the elders of my people and before Israel" (1 Sam.15:30). King David also sinned - far more seriously than Saul; but he wrote a psalm and acknowledged his sin publicly (Psalm 51).

Jesus told the Pharisees that their greatest sin was that they sought to justify themselves before men (Luke 16:15). God hates this sin more than any other. There is very little hope for a backslider who wants to justify himself before men.

God's word to sinners has always been: "Only acknowledge your sin" (Jer.3:13).

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Re: Only Acknowledge Your Sin by Zac Poonen, on: 2012/11/3 8:06

I enjoyed reading this short article by Zac Poonen. Don't recall ever giving any thought to the elder son before. He was certainly upset with his Father that's for sure. Couldn't even speak of his younger brother with affection or even call him "brother". It's easy to understand the prodigal (younger) brother. Although he foolishly leaves his father's house and wastes his inheritance yet he still has a heart to return, even as a servant. It shows that in the end his leaving was simply foolishness, not injustice on the part of his father. He would not have wanted to return if his father had been unjust. The elder son being left with a choice it would seem as to how to handle it. We always think of the prodigal son, but I wonder how many have thought of the elder son, or think like the elder son? Praise The Father in heaven. May all elder sons choose to go back into the house of their father as well.