

# God and the Respectable

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 15:25-32.

B. Subject: The Parable of the Lost Son.

## II. The Lord sets in contrast two different attitudes.

A. Something about working hard forms a self-righteous attitude in us.

1. The older brother is extremely bitter and resentful at what the rebellious son receives.
2. Characteristics present when this attitude is expressed.
  - a. A sense of being treated unfairly—ignored, forgotten.
  - b. An overinflated view of oneself.
  - c. There is no love or respect for the father.
3. Jesus dealt with self-righteousness more harshly than any other thing.

B. True fatherhood comes out to meet the sulking son and care for him.

1. Self-righteousness often sits in tremendous opportunity but denies it.
2. Unless you are willing to respond to the love of God, you will remain outside of His circle.
3. We must judge ourselves in light of God's work.

### Application questions:

1. What can one look for to identify a self-righteous attitude in him?

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2. What is the proper response to those having a self-righteous attitude? What is surprising about this?

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3. When have you struggled with self-righteousness? What has helped you to overcome this attitude?

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