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- 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away.
 - He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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- 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying
 - "This man receives sinners and eats with them."
- 3 So He told them this parable:

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A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual principle/lesson.

Jesus used parables to <u>reveal</u> the truth to those who wanted to know it and to <u>conceal</u> the truth from those who were indifferent. (Matthew 12)

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- 3 So He told them this parable:
- "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?

And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

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Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?

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PRODIGAL WHICH ROAD ARE YOU ON?

So...therefore...what now?

- Are you needing a party?
- Are you a party thrower?
 - Are you a party pooper?

- 11 And He said, "There was a man who had two sons.
- 11 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.
- 11 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and look a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

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- 11 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and look a journey into a far country, and there <u>he squandered his property in reckless</u> <u>living.</u>

- 17 But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!
- 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
- 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.

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 Treat me as one of your hired servants.

- 20 And he arose and came to his father.
 But while he was still a long way off,

 his father saw him and felt compassion,
 and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
- 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet,

- 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.
- 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

 And they began to celebrate.

PRODIGAL WHICH ROAD ARE YOU ON?

In spite of the disrespect and contempt the younger son displayed, his father retained a heart of compassion and patience, waiting for this son to come to the end of himself, and then throws a party to celebrate his return.

PRODIGAL WHICH ROAD ARE YOU ON?

In spite of the disrespect and contempt we have toward God He retains a heart of compassion and patience toward us, waiting for us to come to the end of ourselves, and is planning to throw a party to celebrate our return.

Older Brother with the Father

- 25 Now his <u>older son</u> was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.
- 27 And he (the servant) said to him (the brother),

 "Your brother has come, and your father
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28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 29 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, 30 who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!

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- 31 And he (the father) said to him (the older son), 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
- It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

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Jesus leaves this story sitting in the laps of those listening, especially those who were grumbling...and He is asking...

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Why won't you celebrate the redemption of your brother?

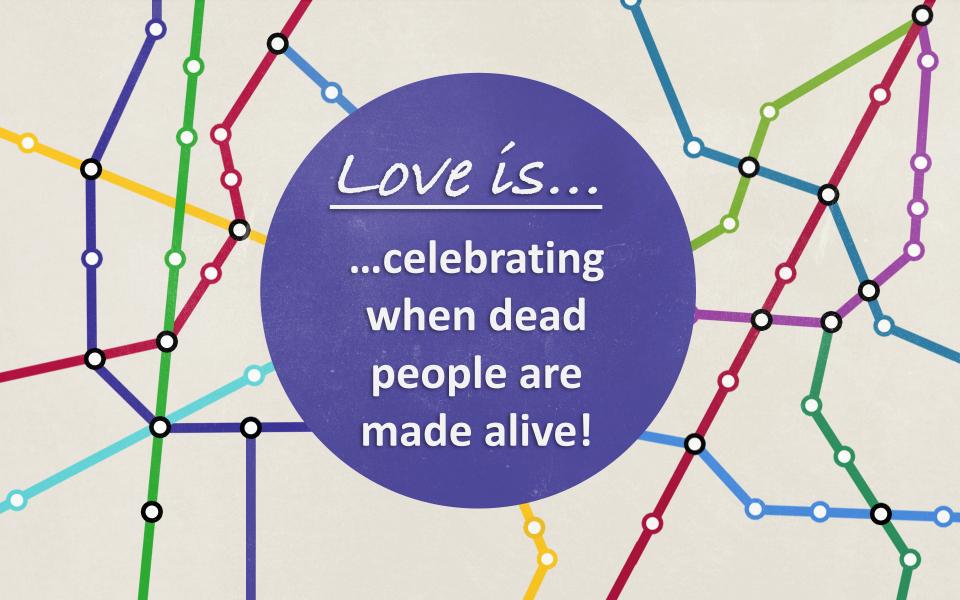
In spite of the disrespect and contempt the older son displayed, the father maintained a heart of compassion and patience, waiting for the older son to come to the end of his own self-righteousness,...

In spite of the disrespect and contempt we display toward God, He maintains a heart of compassion and patience, waiting for us to come to the end of our own self-righteousness, our own self sufficiency, and our own bankrupt 'religiosity'...









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The younger brother got a *fattened calf*, the older brother wanted a *goat*, we got the <u>Lamb of God who</u> takes away the sin of the world...<u>LET'S CELEBRATE!</u>