

# “Never too late to Party”

Luke 15:11-32

## What do you think, God thinks when He thinks about you?

### Where’s the party at?

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

Luke 15:11-13 (NLT)

### The Party’s over.

About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.’”

Luke 15:14-19 (NLT)

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

Luke 15:20-21 (NLT)

## YO DJ Pump this party.

“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

Luke 15:22-27 (NLT)

## Or you can go to the Pity Party.

“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

“His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

Luke 15:28-32(NLT)

## SO WHAT?

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NLT)

## What God thinks when he thinks about you:

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## **Growth Group Questions**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the best party you have ever been to? Why?
2. If you could plan the perfect party what would it be like? Place? Music? Food? Activities?

3. How do you think God thinks when he thinks about you?

How has your thinking about that changed over time?

4. Re-read Luke 15:13-16. Tell of a time you made poor choices and ended up in dire straits because of it.

How did you come to your senses and get out of the situation?

5. Re read Luke 15:28-30. Who do you identify with more, the younger son or the older brother? Why?

6. Why do so many people have trouble accepting God's love?

How can you help people understand God's love as unconditional?

7. Do you need to come back to God's love in some way this week? How?