

The Unrighteous Brothers

Scripture Reading — Luke 15:11-32

The younger one said . . . “Father, give me my share of the estate.” . . . [The older one said,] “Look! . . . You never gave me even a young goat. . . .” — Luke 15:12, 29

In the 1960s a musical duo emerged and became famous as The Righteous Brothers.

Jesus’ parable that we have read today could be titled “The Unrighteous Brothers.”

Both of the brothers in this story felt entitled. Clearly, the younger son was unrighteous, demanding his share of his father’s estate even before the father was dead! And the older son, though he stayed and worked hard for the family, was no paragon of virtue. He was furious that his father would waste even one calf on his reckless younger brother.

Both needed forgiveness. The younger brother realized it, saying, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.” But the older brother didn’t have a clue. His only response was a heart of stone toward his brother *and* toward his forgiving father.

Both had received their -father’s generosity. The younger brother was given his inheritance before it was due, and he did not deserve a welcome-home party. And as the father reminded the older son, “You are always with me, and everything I have is yours.” The one son was blessed twice; the other son was promised everything. In the words of a grand hymn, “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy.”

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, we are unworthy children. Help us to love and forgive each other, as you love and forgive us, for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen. (AM)

Written by Al Mulder and Bonny Mulder-Behnia — <https://todaydevotional.com/authors/al-mulder-and-bonny-mulder-behnia>

<https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/the-unrighteous-brothers>

Printed on January 20, 2022

