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“Now his older son was in the field.” – Luke 15:25

# Parable of the Lost Son: Lessons from the Elder Son

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Holy Great  
Fast

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“When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.” (Prov. 21:11)

*“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.” (A wise person)*



# 1. He did not consider himself among the lost/dead

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- “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” (1 Tim. 15-16)

## 2. He looked at the faults of others

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- “And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” (Matt. 7:3-5)



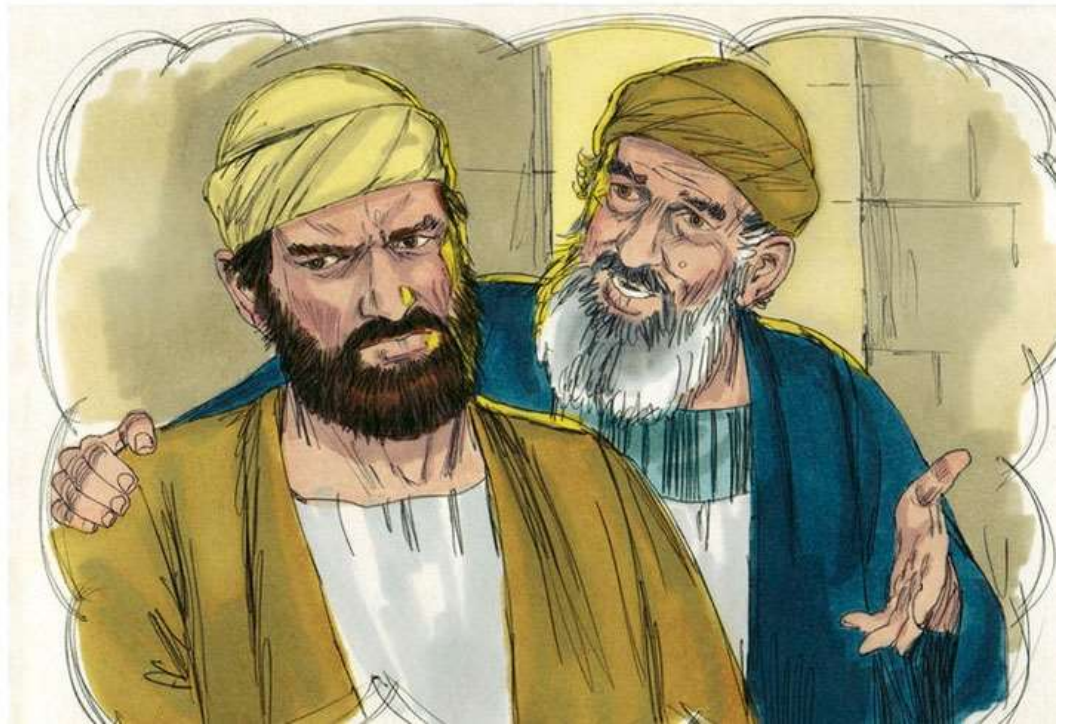
### 3. Defamation of another

- “But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.” (Lk. 15:30)



## 4. Anger/hatred

- “But he was angry and would not go in.” (Lk. 15:28)
- *“The one who seems to himself to be righteous, who does not see the beam in his own eye, becomes angry when forgiveness is granted to one who confesses his sin and begs for mercy” (St. Ambrose of Milan)*





## 5. Ingratitude

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- “So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.'” (Lk. 15:29)



## 6. Exaggerated his righteousness

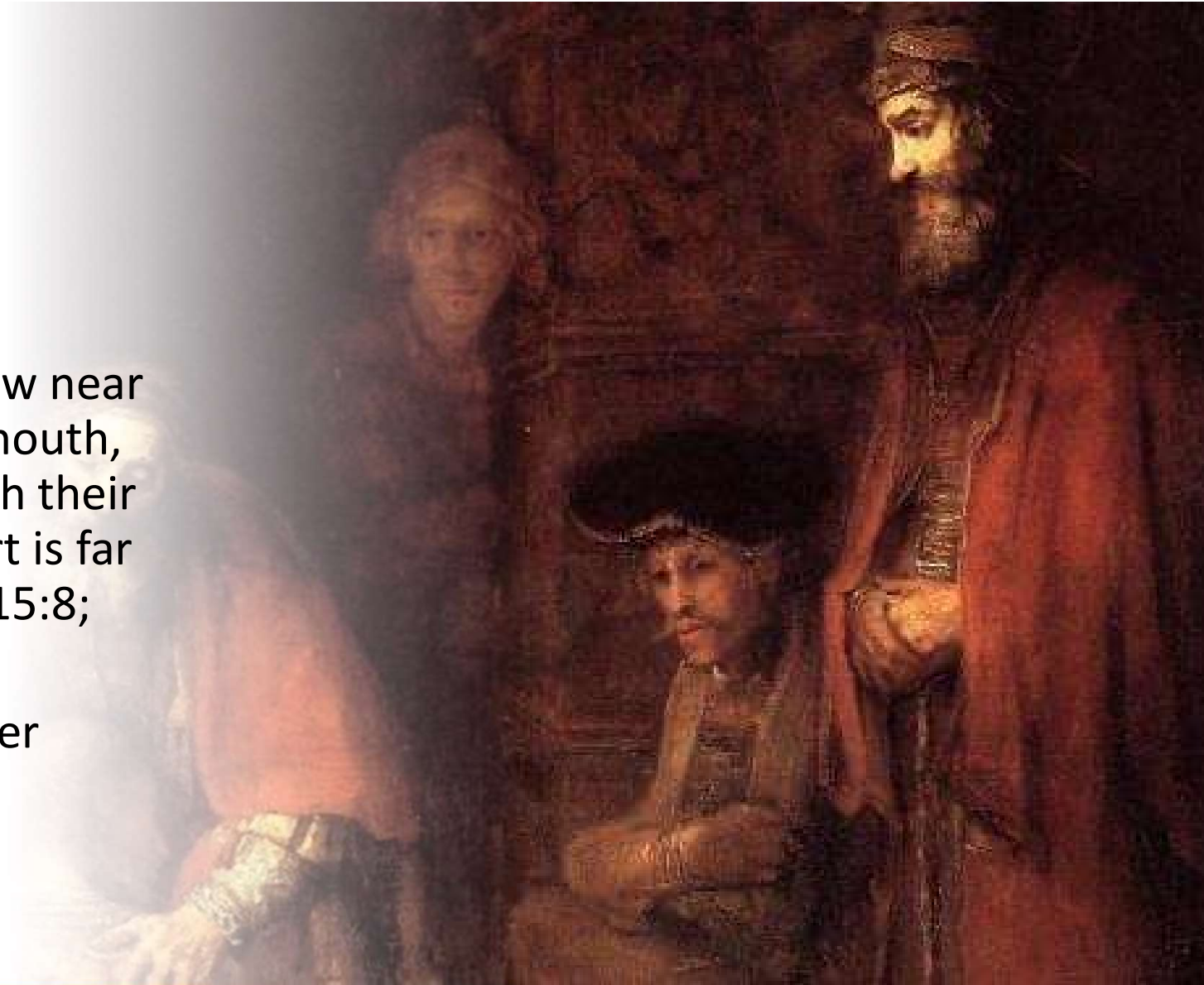
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- “...I never transgressed your commandment at any time...” (Lk. 15:29)



## 7. Lip Service

- “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.” (Matt. 15:8; Is.29:13)
- He judged his father



## 8. He blamed the Father

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“Lo, these many years I  
have been serving  
you...” (Lk. 15:29)

