

# What's With the "Holier Than Thou" Attitude?

(Isaiah 65:2-5)

- Introduction:**
1. (Isaiah 65:2-5).
  2. By naming "Prodigal Son" an unintended emphasis is placed on just one character.
  3. Jesus sets the stage with Lost Sheep (15:1-7) and Lost Coin (15:8-10).
  4. What should have been a joyous occasion was met with anger due to:
    - a. Disappointed with God's grace.
    - b. Blind to his own shortcomings (Holier than thou attitude).

## I. Disappointed With The Implications Of God's Grace

- A. (Jonah 1:1-3) Jonah.
- B. (Matthew 20:1-16).
- C. (Luke 15)
- D. Then there's our own story. Have you ever been disappointed with God's grace?
- E. How dare we resent the grace of God! Have we not all sufficiently sinned that we should be thankful.
- F. Notice how the wrong attitude affected his actions

## II. The Roots Of A Holier Than Thou Attitude

- A. Self-Deception & Pride
  1. Comical - "Lo these many years I have been serving you and I never transgressed your commandment at any time" (Luke 15:29).
  2. It's this attitude that has caused us to coin the phrase "holier-than-thou."
  3. Pride? (Romans 3:10, 23; Isaiah 64:6; Proverbs 6:16-19). Masquerade.
- B. Intolerance.
  1. (Ephesians 4:32).
  2. How many church problems are caused by petty grievances.
  3. Don't seek to expose flaws, cover them (Proverbs 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8).
  4. Before getting angry ask, "Would this make God angry?"
- C. Don't doubt the genuineness of another.
  1. Repetition of a sin doesn't speak to one's genuineness.
  2. The nature of the sin isn't a proper guide either - Peter's denial.
  3. Sometimes we doubt another because we don't have a personal commitment to them.

- Conclusion:**
1. Like the older son, a "holier-than-thou" person can be just as lost "at home" as his prodigal brother who wandered from home.
  2. May God help us to combat a holier-than-thou attitude, because not only is it self-destructive, it also destroys our effectiveness and outreach to the lost.