



Why Did Jesus Eat With “Sinners”?

He told a now-famous story to answer this question!

Luke 15:1-3, NIV

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable...

The Prodigal Son & The Loving Father

The point of the story is that Jesus welcomed sinners because that’s what God the Father does!

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

John 14:9, NIV

**The Father Still
Loves Rebellious Children...**

**...even though they want his riches
without a relationship with him!**

Luke 15:11-12, NIV

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

God, I wish you were out of the way!

**The Father Still
Loves Rebellious Children...**

**...even though they make a declaration
of independence by running away from home!**

Luke 15:13, NIV

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country...

God, I want to be on my own!

**When Rebellious Children
Become Reckless...**

**The Father uses their LOSSES
to help them realize they're LOST.**

Luke 15:13-16, NIV

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When Reckless Children Become Repentant...

They feel homesick for the Father—realize their folly, admit their sin, and turn back toward home!

Luke 15:17-19, NIV

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants."

When Repentant Children Return Home...

The Father can't wait for them to reach him!

Luke 15:20, NIV

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

When Repentant Children Return Home...

The Father can't wait for the celebration to begin!

Luke 15:21-24, NIV

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

The Rest Of The Story The Other Brother!

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound." The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

Luke 15:25-28, NIV

The Rest Of The Story The Other Brother!

But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Luke 15:29-32, NIV

"Older Brother" Syndrome

The message of Jesus to the mutters:
You've lost your love for the lost!

Luke 15:1-3, NIV

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable...
