

beyond sunday

not a fan — 10.19.25

More Than Rules (Elder Brother-ish) — Mark Tumney

Read Luke 15:11–32 together before starting. These questions are rooted in this week's sermon on the elder brother, "More Than Rules."

- 1. Connection Question:** What's something you didn't get as a kid that you totally thought you deserved — and you still remember thinking, "That's not fair!"?
- 2. Sermon Reflection:** Mark said in the sermon, *"It's entirely possible to be very good on the outside and still be far from God."* **What do you think that looks like in real life today — at church, at work, or even in your own spiritual habits?**
- 3. Compare the Two Sons:** The younger son rebels. The older son obeys but is still distant. **Which one do you relate to more right now — and why?** (*You can also reflect on different seasons of life.*)
- 4. Symptom Check:** Mark walked us through six symptoms of elder brother lostness. **Which one stood out to you most — and why?** (Lack of joy, anger, slavery to performance, judgmentalism, lack of assurance, coldness toward the Father)

- 5. Performance vs. Relationship:** The older brother says, *"I've been slaving for you..."* **Have you ever felt like your relationship with God was more about duty than delight?** What does it look like to follow Jesus in freedom rather than performance?
- 6. Grace at My Expense:** The older brother resented the party — partly because the fattened calf came from what was now his inheritance. **Have you ever found yourself frustrated when someone else received grace or blessing you didn't think they deserved?** Why do you think that's such a hard thing for us to celebrate?
- 7. Spiritual Coldness:** Mark said, *"You can live under the Father's roof and still be cold toward His heart."* **What are some signs that you might be drifting into spiritual coldness — even while "doing the right things"?**
- 8. The Open Ending:** Jesus ends the story without telling us what the older brother decides. **Why do you think He leaves it open?** What does that open ending invite you to do?
- 9. Coming Home:** Mark closed the message with this question: *"Will you allow Jesus to take you home to the Father?"* **What would that next step look like for you personally?**