

**Pastor Will Sohnchen**  
**Sermon Outline – March 15, 2009**  
**“Following Jesus through Every Season - Abiding”**

*<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’*

*<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’*

*<sup>31</sup>“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>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 15:25-32

**In the end this is really a story about the Generosity of God and His deep desire for relationship with His children.**

**We learn from this story that it is very possible for a person to abide \_\_\_\_\_ and yet not abide\_\_\_\_\_**

**Evidence of abiding “in” but not “with” the Father...**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. **A sense** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **A joyless,** \_\_\_\_\_

*“What a wretched thing to call oneself a Christian and yet be a stranger and a grumbling servant in the Father’s house. And what a glorious thing it is to become aware everyday anew of the miracle that there is Someone who hears us. Someone who is waiting for us. Someone who sets everything to rights and finds a way out for us when all we can do is to wear ourselves out with worry. Someone who one day, when our last hour comes and we go back home from the far country and the hectic adventure of life, will be waiting for us on the steps of the eternal home of the Father and will lead us to the place where we may speak with Jesus forever and ever and where we shall be surrounded by the joy which we have here only begun to taste.”*

Helmut Thielicke - “The Waiting Father”

**Evidence of abiding “in” and “with” the Father...**

1. **Loving** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Love being** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Never losing** \_\_\_\_\_
  - John 15:1-8 - “Abiding in the Vine”