

**FAMILY #3**  
**INFLUENCE OF THE ELDEST SON OR DAUGHTER**  
LUK 15 25-32

This story is so tragic because it has been repeated over and over again. The only thing that has changed is the kind of hog pin. It may be sex, drugs, witchcraft, rebellion, lawlessness etc.

The theme is rebellion against authority. The father never stops loving and looking for the one that has been pulled into the “far country”.

Let’s examine not just what happened in this story but why it happened.

I. Why did the prodigal son leave home?

True riches are what you can enjoy here and in heaven.

The true meaning of life is found in the relationships that we create.

A. Because he was confused about the true riches in life.-

He wanted his father’s wealth but not his father’s wisdom.

He wanted his father’s riches but not his father’s relationship.

He wanted his father’s gold but not father’s godliness.

B. Because he was blinded as to where his rebellion would take him.

There was a limit on how much he could spend. ..”He spent all”.

There is an end to sins pleasure.

C. Because he was rejected by his elder brother.

The elder brother attitude is that of a Pharisee.-critical, bitter, angry.

It is the direct opposite of what an older family member should be.

We can see it in v 30 in the words of the elder brother “*This thy son*”.

Instead of saying, “*This my brother*”.

What is this if it is not REJECTION?

Satan attacks us through the avenue of our relationships.

The typical story of a rebel is not “a second born” but rather a first born!

Think of the list of first born rebels in the Bible.

1. Cain was Adam's first born. He murdered his brother.
2. Lot's first born daughter lead the way into incest for her younger sister.
3. Esau was Isaac's first born, who despised his birthright.
4. Er, Judah's first born was wicked in the sight of the Lord and the Lord slew him.
5. Reuben, Jacob's first born was morally perverse.
6. Miriam and Aaron both rebelled against Moses leadership.  
When you have a first born daughter and other daughters then a son, you have 2 first borns. Miriam led Aaron into rebellion.
7. Nadab was the first born of Aaron, he offers strange fire to the Lord.
8. Samson was a first born.
9. Hophni- Eli's first son commits immorality in the house of God.
10. King Saul who lost his kingdom for rebelling against God, was first born.
11. Amnon, David's first born, rapes his half sister.
12. Uzziah who became king and smitten by leprosy for rebelling against the Word of the priest, first born.

People having problems with second born need to ask how is the first born doing?

If the first born is doing well you can help the second easily.

You not only have Dad and Mom but the power of the first born to help.

A problem quite common in life is the eldest is often JEALOUS of the younger.

1. Cain was jealous of Able.
2. Joseph's older brothers were jealous.
3. Miriam and Aaron jealous of Moses.
4. Eliab, David's older brother jealous
5. Aninijah jealous of Solomon
6. Elder brother jealous of the prodigal son.

II. What is the role of the elder brother or sister supposed to be to the younger?

194 times the world elder or elders occurs.

These principles are found in the writing of and elder instructing the younger by way of relationships.

It is the book of Third John.

3JO 1:1 *The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*

A. The elder should accept his responsibility of the power of his or her influence.

In the bible the elders were seen as leaders and being responsible.

The decision makers.

No one inside the home, outside of mom and dad has as much influence as the eldest son or daughter.

Do you have a strong willed first born child? Wow you are blessed!

It is not a fluke of nature. God made them that way. So they would have the power to influence the other children to do right.

God stated he wanted the first born of everything in the bible.

Satan knows the power of the first born influence. If he can get the first born it is possible the other children will follow.

The elder is the devils prime target.

The influence of the elder is a sacred trust.

If a parent cannot control the eldest you will have to separate the other children from their influence or you will lose them all.

God expects the younger to submit to the elder.

1PE 5:5 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.*

The archives of pediatrics medicine in fall of 1997

“The oldest students in a grade level are more likely to report using tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs.”

The opposite of can occur.

Character First- in Arkansas school district where 35 older students worked with 60 younger students – 8- 10 grades taught kindergarten to sixth graders. Result was a reduction in juvenile delinquency because of a reduction in peer dependency.

Younger children would rather respond to someone older than them who Love, admire and praise them than their own age.

B. Clearly communicate his love. V 1

1-11 4 times he refers to Gaius as the “*well beloved*”.

Picture your eldest son introducing his brother and sister as “this is my beloved brother and sister”.

The eldest should say this in the presence of others regularly. Also put it in writing.

These words are too scarce in our homes.

The only reason Peter couldn't tell Jesus he loved him is because there was something wrong in Peter.

C. Show concern for spiritual and physical well being.

3JO 1:2 *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

When the elder plays practical jokes to severely the feeling of rejection and inferiority on the part of the younger children.

God wants the elders to be PROTECTORS.- not victim makers.

Physical.

*Ill.* Elder teaches the younger where the boundaries are. Like a big brother telling his sister, “There is the road. It has fast cars on it. This is the boundary. Don't go past here or you will get hurt.

Spiritual

*Ill.* How to play and instrument in church, pray, worship, witness. Etc.

D. Praise

3JO 1:3 *For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.*

*Praised in the presence of others.*

It brought joy to me when you.....fill in the blank!

Elder is perceived as bossy if instruction and protection is offered without a measure of love and praise.

The more praise that is given the less correction will be needed.

Jesus never praised power, positions, or achievement, but he did character. Faith, wisdom, discernment, perseverance, obedience etc.

Praise is more important than teasing from an elder.

E. Teach and instruct.

3JO 1:8 *We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth.*

3JO 1:11 *Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.*

We all crave instruction and approval from older siblings.

We seek their counsel.

F. Give sincere warning concerning about wrong friends.

3JO 1:9 *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.*

When did you get in trouble most? When did you smoke your first cigarette? When I was with a friend.

Set the example by having right kind of friends.

G. Give insight about the right friends.

3JO 1:12 *Demetrius hath good report of all [men], and of the truth itself: yea, and we [also] bear record; and ye know that our record is true.*

You can hang around Demetrius he will be good for you.

H. Encourage them to continue doing right.

Younger children who do right should not have to stand against elders to do so.

Not like David's eldest brother that in spite of Eliab he killed Goliath.

1SA 17:28 *¶ And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.*

He attacked David's character.

He accused him of being irresponsible by leaving the sheep.

Prideful

Insincere and critical

Noisy

David's response was "Is there not a cause?"

Eliab's response should have been "little brother, you are right, I will go fight Goliath".

David was not what he was because of his brother but in spite of his brother. The elder may be harsh and critical but you can still be what God wants you to be.

I. Speak to them face to face

3JO 1:14 *But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face.*

The elder should initiate communication with the younger.

J. Generate acceptance in them by delighting in them.

Call for a family:

Picture this being said:

"I feel sorry for others who don't have a sister like I do"

"I am so glad God let me have you for a brother"

It increases peer pressure that makes it hard for them to go wrong.