



DON'T LIVE LIKE A SLAVE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

25 *"Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'*

28 *"The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'*

31 *"His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!' "* - Luke 15:25-32

Living like a slave in the Father's house has been described as condemning, judgemental, anxious, insecure, marked by little intimacy and joy, no music, no dancing, deep insecurity, overly sensitive to criticism or being overlooked. Life for a slave is the same as a religious Christian; it is a joyless crushing drudgery.

Here are 10 warning signs that you are living like a slave not like a son:

1. He heard music and dancing - A sign of freedom and sonship. Do you still delight in God?
2. What is going on? - Do you have an anxious fear of authority?
3. We are celebrating - Are you overly sensitive to being overlooked?
4. Father came out and begged him - Are you reluctant to enjoy what you have been invited into?
5. Look you, all these years I've slaved for you - Is bitterness boiling up inside you?
6. All these years I've slaved for you - Are you trying to earn your way into the presence of God?
7. Never gave me one young goat - Are you disproportionately negative?
8. This son of yours - Do you still value family / community or have you isolated yourself?
9. Squandered your money - Do you look for the possibility of redemption or a reason for rejection?
10. You killed the fattened calf - Religion ends in death - Are there areas of your life that are dead?

Questions

1. What did you see about your sonship / slave mentality that you have never seen before?
2. Where have you been living like a slave instead of enjoying your sonship?
3. How does Jesus' invitational journey radically alter our identity (from slave to son)?