

# *“Party Pooper”*

Luke 15:25-28; Matthew 21:24-32

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- *“Every party has a pooper! That’s why we invited you!”*
- *“Party Pooper”—a “drag, killjoy, spoilsport, wet blanket”*
- The prodigal son and the extravagant grace of his father
- Pharisees and scribes looking for someone to set the story straight!

## *“Party Pooper”*

### **A. The Return of the Party Pooper—Luke 15:25-27**

1. Not a symbol of a true believer, but the “Pharisee” figure in the story
2. Returning from the field, unaware that his brother had come home.
  - a. Why wasn’t he told? Father knew he was a “party pooper”
  - b. Earlier signs of a strained relationship between the father and elder son.
3. The “smells” and “sounds” of celebration—v. 26
4. The interrogation of the servant boy—v. 26
  - a. Why ask a servant boy? Why not ask the father?
  - b. Servant boy’s reply: *“Your brother is safe and sound at home, and your father has killed the fatted calf to celebrate”*

### **B. The Response of the Party Pooper—Luke 15:28**

1. *“He became angry”*—Blew his top!
  - a. Pharisees’ Response: *“Yes! Finally!”*
  - b. His anger reveals his hidden resentment toward his father
  - c. The “passive-aggressive” behavior of the elder son
2. *“He refused to go in”*—Boycotted the party!

### **C. The “Reversal” of the Party Pooper and Prodigal**

1. Party pooper on the “outside”; Prodigal on the “inside”
2. Why? **The Parable of the Two Sons—Matthew 21:24-32**
  - a. The question concerning Jesus’ authority—vv. 24-27
  - b. The parable of “reversal”—why some who think they should be on the inside are on the outside of God’s kingdom!—vv. 28-32
    - 1) Pharisees were all talk, no action—thus excluded
    - 2) Tax Collectors and sinners refused at first, then repented and thus included. They accepted God’s grace.
    - 3) Pharisees on outside for rejecting God’s grace
3. Parable applied: Prodigal inside for he experienced the grace of his father; whereas the party pooper is on the outside, knowing nothing of the extravagant grace of his father—but in need of forgiveness and grace!

### **D. The “Reaching Out” to the Party Pooper—Luke 15:28**