

STUDY QUESTIONS  
**THE PRODIGAL GOD**  
by Timothy Keller

**Chapter Five: The True Elder Brother**

*"My son, everything I have is yours."*

WHAT WE NEED

1. This parable demonstrates God's initiating love through the father. Is it repentance that causes the father's love? Explain with both brothers in mind.
2. We tend to think of repentance as expressing remorse for a long list of wrongdoings, but we may need to repent of the things we did right! What must we repent of to truly become a Christian? Explain.  
(See Exodus 20:3 & Deut. 5:7)

WHO WE NEED

Keller states, "Mercy and forgiveness must be free and unmerited to the wrongdoer. If the wrongdoer has to do something to merit it, then it isn't mercy, **but forgiveness *always* comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness.**"

3. The elder brother in the parable had to pay the cost, even though he was unwilling. What is a True Elder Brother? What did it cost to bring us "home" and to whom did it cost? With what did He pay the cost?
4. Is your heart moved to love, joy and gratitude at the realization of the cost Christ bore for you? Has this realization caused a transformation in you?
5. Answer Keller's question, "If the Lord of the Universe loves us enough to experience this (death on the cross), what are we afraid of?"

Pray for each woman in this group to see the beauty of what He has done for us and to be set free from the fear and neediness created by seeking love, greatness, consolation and honor in other things.