

## **“Two Lost Sons”**

**Luke 15:11-31**

Robert Frost’s quote:

Mark Twain’s answers:

Philip Yancey’s story:

### **Act 1: The Prodigal and His Request**

How should we view his request for share of estate?

Was the grass greener in the ‘distant country’?

### **Act 2: The Father and the Prodigal**

Was the father too magnanimous or overly-indulgent?

What did the father do that is considered ‘disgraceful’ in his culture?

### **Act 3: The Father and the Elder Son**

What is your impression of the older son?

How did the parable contrast the two sons?

Was the elder son as righteous as he thinks he is?

How was his attitude contrasted with the father’s?

### **Act 4: The parable and Listeners today**

There is a bit of the younger and older son in each of us!

We tend to stray from the father from time to time...

Or we tend to be over-legalistic when we stay...

Have you see yourself in this parable?

*The father’s reaction to the prodigal son and his elder son mirrors the answer Abraham Lincoln gave to a question he was asked about how he would treat all the confederate soldiers once the civil war was over.*

*Expecting vengeance and even thoughts of execution because of treason, Lincoln surprised all of them by saying, “I will treat them as if they had never been away.” By Charles Mallory.*