What’s With the “Holier Than Thou” Attitude?
(Investigation 65:2-5)

2. By naming “Prodigal Son” an unintended emphasis is placed on just one character.
3. Jesus sets the stage with Lost Sheep (15:1-7) and Lost Coin (15:8-10).
4. What should have been a joyous occasion was met with anger due to:
   a. Disappointed with God’s grace.
   b. Blind to his own shortcomings (Holier than thou attitude).

I. Disappointed With The Implications Of God’s Grace
   A. (Jonah 1:1-3) Jonah.
   B. (Matthew 20:1-16).
   C. (Luke 15)
   D. Then there’s our own story. Have you ever been disappointed with God’s grace?
   E. How dare we resent the grace of God! Have we not all sufficiently sinned that we should be thankful.
   F. Notice how the wrong attitude affected his actions

II. The Roots Of A Holier Than Thou Attitude
   A. Self-Deception & Pride
      1. Comical - “Lo these many years I have been serving you and I never transgressed your commandment at any time” (Luke 15:29).
      2. It’s this attitude that has caused us to coin the phrase “holier-than-thou.”
   B. Intolerance.
      1. (Ephesians 4:32).
      2. How many church problems are caused by petty grievances.
      3. Don’t seek to expose flaws, cover them (Proverbs 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8).
      4. Before getting angry ask, “Would this make God angry?”
   C. Don’t doubt the genuineness of another.
      1. Repetition of a sin doesn’t speak to one’s genuineness.
      2. The nature of the sin isn’t a proper guide either - Peter’s denial.
      3. Sometimes we doubt another because we don’t have a personal commitment to them.

Conclusion: 1. Like the older son, a “holier-than-thou” person can be just as lost “at home” as his prodigal brother who wandered from home.
2. May God help us to combat a holier-than-thou attitude, because not only is it self-destructive, it also destroys our effectiveness and outreach to the lost.