



had a profound emotional impact on the father who may have been inconsolable at the realization that his son chose to leave home (rejected the father), and the possibility that he may never see his son again. The older brother could have felt rejected or forgotten watching his father grieve, continually praying to God and asking that his younger son return safely, maybe working nonstop around the house to mask the pain, and sending out servants to check on his younger son's wellbeing. Unaddressed issues/concerns can breed resentment, anger, and ultimately un-forgiveness. As the time passed from the younger brother's departure, and the older brother watched the silent pain of his father, and he continued to work harder in spite of being ignored by his father, feeling unappreciated, and betrayed/abandoned by his younger brother's departure. All of these unaddressed issues/emotions presented themselves when he refused to enter the house and celebrate his brother's return with his father. It was hard for him to celebrate his brother's return when he felt that he had not been celebrated or appreciated in his brother's absence. It's hard for you to show love when you haven't, or don't feel it. When you have a void caused by hurt, it won't heal by ignoring it, trying to outwork it, or even just by praying about it, but at some point you have to forgive, or receive forgiveness for the issue/offence. Important to learn from the older brother is that when the father came to him, he was honest about his feelings; we can't experience true forgiveness or reconciliation without honesty.

## Reflection Time

Is it me? Am I holding onto a past offence, hurt, or issue that is preventing me from feeling and receiving love? Am I trying to work through the pain in vain? Have I prematurely given up on someone that you have given me? Is there someone that I need to be honest with about my issues/feelings in addition to you God? Lord give me the heart to forgive or receive forgiveness, and the words to express my true feelings effectively.

### Category

1. Is It Me

### Tags

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