

## Some ways to read Luke 15.11-32

1. **As allegory for “Ephraim” and “Judah” as sons;** Jeremiah 31.16-20; Hosea 11
2. **As story about the Pharisees (elder son) and tax collectors/sinners** (younger son)
3. **As story about how the “mammon of injustice” can divide people,** while the gift economy can reconnect them
4. **As story about God’s infinite mercy and love,** especially for the dissolute/wounded, linked to Rembrandt’s painting (Nouwen)
5. **NOT as “Jews” who follow the law (elder son) and “Gentiles” (younger son) who are greedy pagans, etc.**