

Timothy Keller,
The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith
(New York: Dutton [Penguin Group], 2008).

Chapters One and Two

Chapter One

1. What is the usual way that this parable has been interpreted?
2. How should it be interpreted? What is Jesus doing in this parable?
3. Who did Jesus offend by his teaching?
4. What is the significance of the charge of “atheism” levelled by the Roman world against the early Christians?
5. What is moralism? Why is it not the gospel?

Chapter Two

1. What are the two divisions of the parable Keller is examining?
2. What is extraordinary about the actions of the father with regard to the request of the younger son for his share of the inheritance?
3. What does the father’s response to the younger son after he returns tell you about the father?
4. What do we learn from Act 1 of this parable?
5. Why is not sufficient to see the heart of this parable as what Keller calls Act 1?
6. Why does Jesus not tell us how the older son responded to his father’s request to go into the feast?