

Week Five

Finish Week Four

- Finished Week Four. Beginning page 59.

Luke 15:25-32

The Elder Son

- The elder son who can still choose for or against the love that is offered to him, Rembrandt presents me with the "inner drama of the soul" -his as well as my own.
- Rembrandt is hard to face. Romanticizing the Artist and His art.
- Rembrandt was known to act often selfishly, arrogantly, and even vengefully.
- From the story itself, as well as from painting, that the hardest conversion to go through is the conversion of the one who stayed home.

Elder Son Leaves

- The elder son has been painted by Rembrandt shows him to be very much like his father.
- The elder son stands stiffly erect unlike the father.
- Could this bitter, resentful, angry man might be closer to me in a spiritual way?
- Envy
- A dark power erupts in him and boils to the surface.

Living without Joy

- A complainer is hard to live with, and very few people know how to respond to the complaints made by a self-rejecting person.
- Do I ever have a resentful heart? The elder son couldn't enter into the house and share in his father's joy.
- The elder son stands outside the circle of this love, refusing to enter. The light on his face makes it clear that he, too, is called to the light, but he cannot be forced.

Questions

- Can the elder son in me come home?
- Who can help him?
- 'You must be born from above' John 3:7
- I cannot be reborn from below; that is, with my own strength, with my own mind, with my own psychological insights.
- 'With God, everything is possible' Matthew 19:26

Coming Home

- Am I imprisoned in obedience and duty lived out as slavery?
- Am I envious and resentful?
- There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19-20