

Theme: The Lord actively, diligently pursues those who are lost – rejoicing greatly when they are “found” by him. He wants us to rejoice with him in the restoration of those who were lost.

Background: The whole chapter is one piece. Actually 3 parables (2 short, 1 long) addressing one theme: Finding and rejoicing over what was lost!

Introduction: Knowing the joy of being with someone when they are “found”.

I. Friend of Sinners! (1,2)

A. Are they contagious?

1. Jesus *attracted* sinners

- a. “Drawing near” not “driven off”
 - They were loved and received
 - Challenged and corrected
- b. For Jesus – righteousness demands
 - 1) Effort – exertion - engagement
 - Romans 4:13; Philippians 3:9; Galatians 2:20
 - 2) No fear of being tainted
 - No problem for Jesus
 - Caution for us Galatians 6:1

2. And *repelled* the “righteous”

- a. For Pharisees - righteousness demands
 - Separation
- b. Critical of Jesus
 - Grumbled (mumbled) - continuously
- c. Redemptive relationships?
 - The “Shepherds of Israel”? Ezekiel 34:1,2,4,10-12

B. The call to repentance – only sinners need to repent!

1. Not a humanitarian effort by Jesus
2. But *humble conformity* to the plan and purposes of God
 - To bring redemption
3. Association with Jesus leads to repentance
 - Luke 5:29-32 (Levi); 7:36-50 (Woman); 19:1-9 Zacchaeus

Application: Does my life and witness “attract” or “repel” the lost? Luke 5:32

II. The Lost and The Found

A. A wandering sheep - A “man” after 1 in 100 (4-7)

1. *Risk* the 99 for one?

- a. Shepherd is portrayed in *non-typical* fashion.
 - The central point concerns the one that is lost
- b. Braves the dangers of open country
 - Hardship is not a deterrent
 - His own suffering, sacrifice in the background?

2. A passionate search
 - For one of His own!
 - Pursues the lost one – until he finds it
 - *He won't fail!!*
3. Puts his person and his assets at risk
 - The shepherd doesn't "play it safe"

Application: How often do you and I want to "play it safe" when called to seek the lost?

4. Bears it back, home!
 - The shepherd must bring it back 1 Peter 2:24,25

B. A lost coin - A "woman" after 1 in 10

1. One 10th of her life savings
 - A value of 10 days wages
2. Of *Great* value
 - Not searching out of pity for the coin
3. The search is ON!
 - The Lord who is diligent and thorough in this search

III. A Reason to Celebrate

A. Here on Earth

1. Verse 6 and verse 9 have nearly identical statements
 - What was loved and precious was found
2. Drawing his critics in?

B. In Heaven

1. Verses 7 and 10, again, are nearly identical
 - Not a passive, stoic Father.
 - More joy over one who repents!
 - Than over 99 who don't need to?
2. Our rejoicing over someone's salvation should be great, indeed!

IV. Finding the Lost

1. Are we going to be like Pharisees and avoid those who might "defile" us? If so, we will miss the opportunity to rejoice greatly, too.
2. Jesus wants us to see ourselves in these stories – as the man or the woman.
 - Willing both to risk much and search diligently for the lost
3. What attitude do we have toward the "sinner" ?
 - Do we look for ways to have meaningful relationships with unbelievers?
4. We either *are*, or *have been* lost sheep. Isaiah 53:6
 - How long will you continue to wander away from the Good Shepherd?