

June 1, 2014 - Morning
"Hearing God's Heartbeat"
Luke 15:1-10... :24 & :32

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Luke 14:35 NKJ)

NKJ Luke 15:1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.

² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

I. Draw near to hear –

1. It is CLEAR this is what the tax collectors and sinner did, they drew NEAR to Jesus to HEAR Him – Luke 14:35 / Luke 15:1
2. Jesus said the very same words He used in Luke 14:35 in His explanation of the Parable of the Sower –

⁸ "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**" ⁹ Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" ¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given in parables, that Seeing they may not see, **And hearing** they may not understand.'*

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² "Those by the wayside are the ones who **hear**; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

¹³ "But the ones on the rock *are those who, when they **hear**, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.* ¹⁴ "Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have **heard**, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ "But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having **heard** the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience. ¹⁶ "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.

¹⁷ "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor *anything* hidden that will not be known and come to light. ¹⁸ "**Therefore take heed how you hear.** For whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

¹⁹ Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And it was told Him *by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You."* ²¹ But He answered and said to them, "**My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.**" (Luke 8:8-21 NKJ)

3. *Oh, how the Pharisees and scribes, did NOT "HEAR" Jesus, they were too busy "complaining" to hear!*

II. The Threefold POWER PARABLE –

³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying: (Luke 15:3 NKJ)

1. The words "this parable" refer to the entire chapter and to what seems to be three parables, but is counted by Luke as one, one parable with three parts:

2. It is important to understand this parable is AGAINST SOMETHING: namely the HOSTILE, HARD-HEARTED and spiritually HAUGHTY attitude of the Pharisees –

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8 NKJ)

Now, as children of Adam and Eve were hiding, the scribes and Pharisees were yelling, "You better hide you filthy sinners, God is going to get you!"

3. This parable gives us the SAME MESSAGE in three slightly different ways, but each is about the Lost, the found and rejoicing and celebrating –

"And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, `Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' (Luke 15:6 NKJ)

"And when she has found *it*, she calls *her* friends and neighbors together, saying, `Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' (Luke 15:9 NKJ)

`for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:24 NKJ)

It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32 NKJ)

III. What each part of the Parable tells us:

1. The Shepherd seeks straying sheep because they are vulnerable, needy and sinful –

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it.

³⁶ "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." (1 Samuel 17:34-36 NKJ)

A. I could probably say vulnerable and stupid, we tend to go astray –

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6 NKJ)

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4 NKJ)

God understands our nature –

¹³ As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we *are* dust. (Psalm 103:13-14 NKJ)

B. The scribes and Pharisees were in a particularly difficult place because of their self-righteousness, they were sinners too but did not realize it –

⁷ "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7 NKJ)

2. The woman seeks her coin because it is valuable; God seeks sinners because they are created in His image –

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28 NKJ)

¹⁴ When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁵ "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see *it*." ¹⁶ So they brought *it*. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription *is* this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him. (Mark 12:14-17 NKJ)

**God FIXES this COIN – Isaiah 52:13-15*

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24 NKJ)

and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (Colossians 3:10 NKJ)

3. The Father runs to and rejoices over His repentant LOST SON, because He loves him –

A. The son "comes to himself" and humbly repents –

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' ¹⁸ 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,' ¹⁹ "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" (Luke 15:17-19 NKJ)

B. The father RUNS –

²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:20-24 NKJ)

Application: God is quick to forgive, ready to restore, ready to receive and rejoice over lost sinners who repent! We need to present this same Face of God to a lost world.

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