

Luke 15:1-32

1. The Lost Sheep, 2. The Lost Coin, & 3. The Lost (Prodigal) Son

Introduction

A. In this chapter, Jesus describes three types of lostness.

1. "Wandering Aimlessly" (The Lost Sheep)
2. "Carelessness" (The Lost Coin)
3. "A Chosen State" (The Lost (Prodigal) Son)

I. The Parable of The Lost Sheep. (vv. 1-7)

A. Sinners drawing near to Jesus

B. Tax Collectors

C. Sinners

II. A Holiness That Conquers

A. The Pharisees' reaction to Jesus' associations, reflects Old Testament injunctions.

B. Jesus' holiness does not get defiled. A holiness that conquers, that overcomes. (Luke 8:43-48)

III. One Is Missing (v. 4)

1. How Does a Sheep Lose It's Way? One of "5" five different ways.

A. The Sheep is attracted by something out in the "Wilderness" (1 John 2:16a-b)

B. The Sheep is Aimless (Proverbs 21:16)

C. The Sheep refuses to heed the warnings of the Shepherd (1 John 2:16b)

D. The Sheep is not attached enough to the Shepherd or to the other Sheep. (Heb. 10:23-25)

E. The Sheep does not trust the Shepherd (Isaiah 53:6)

IV. The Loving-kindness of God (vv. 5-6)

Romans 10:21, (Is. 65:2) "... ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."

Isaiah 55:7, *Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

A. The sinner who repents (v. 7)

2 Tim. 2:25-26, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

B. What does repentance (Meta noia) mean in the Bible?

2 Cor. 5:17, Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Psalms 45:7, You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

V. The Parable of the Lost Coin (vv. 8-10)

A. The Lost Coin represents an unbeliever, the sinner who is Lost.

B. Lost opportunities for witnessing.

a. The Coin (person) with in the home, society or even the church is lost in one of "3" three ways.

1. Ignoring the Coin.

2. Carelessly handling the Coin.

3. Unconsciously placing the Coin some place.

VI. This Parable has a joyful side. It tells us that the Coin was sought until it was found. (v. 9)

A. There are several significant facts that can be seen in the activities of the woman.

1. The woman changed the whole atmosphere of the house.

2. The light represents Jesus Christ, The Light of the world. (Psalm 27:1, John 8:12, 1 John 1:5)

3. The woman swept all the dirt (sin) out of her house.

4. The woman searched with diligently and with urgency. (v. 8c)

VII. Thankfully Jesus knows our frail human nature and understands us. (v. 9)

A. The theological and Christological elements of this brief parable are clear.

B. Recovering lost sinners requires costly grace.

VIII. Conclusion. (v. 10)