

# *Lost Sheep*

**Luke 15:3-7**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- The lost IRS Form 4361
- Pharisees and Scribes muttering about Jesus' associations with sinners
  - Refused to believe the message themselves
  - Rejected the messenger and sought to destroy Jesus through false accusations.
  - Misunderstood Jesus' mission
  - Misread the heart of God

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### **A. Prelude to the Parables**

1. Three in One—15:3
2. Quote from Shepard's book, *The Christ of the Gospels*.
3. Deals primarily with the relationship between a loving God and lost man, not between God and a backslidden Christian.

### **B. Parable of the "Lost Sheep"—Luke 15:4-7**

#### **1. The Parable TOLD**

- a. The nature of sheep
- b. The response of a "good" shepherd

#### **2. The Parable UNFOLDED**

- a. The Pharisees should have known from Scripture
    - 1) Like sheep, all mankind has strayed from God—Isa. 53:6
    - 2) Like a good shepherd, God seeks the lost—Ezek. 34:11-16
    - 3) Like a good shepherd, God lovingly cares for his own—Isaiah 40:11
  - b. The Pharisees knew nothing of God's COMPASSIONATE HEART
    - 1) God compassionately seeks the lost—Exod. 34:16
    - 2) The Pharisees as "bad" shepherds—Ezek. 34:2-8
    - 3) Jesus' indictment of them – Matthew 23:4, 11-14
  - 4) In contrast, Jesus as the "Good" shepherd—Mt. 9:36; Lk. 4:18-19; 19:10
- C. The Pharisees knew nothing of God's CELEBRATORY HEART
    - 1) Believed that God rejoiced in death of wicked
    - 2) Jesus celebrated the conversions of lost sinners—Mt. 7; Lk. 19
    - 3) **TWIST:** More joy over sinner who repents than over those who think they are righteous who do not repent!