

Lost and Found

Luke 15

Verses 1–3

First Tax-collectors and sinners drew near Jesus.

Second, *they acknowledged they had great need.*

The attitude of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law was tragic. They grumbled against Jesus because He associated and ate with such terrible sinners. They felt it was beneath the dignity of any respectable person to associate with such deep sinners. Christ was not of the world, but He was out in the world trying to reach men and women for God.

The parable of the lost sheep. Luke 15:4-7

Verse 4 the sheep was *lost*. The sheep represents the person who isn't a follower of Jesus. Someone who hasn't ask for God's forgiveness of their sins who has not repented. They wander out in the wilderness of the world, the person who has gone astray and is lost to God.

Note the meaning of the word lost:

Lost (GR apollumi): to perish, to destroy, to lose, to lose eternal life, to be spiritually destitute, to be cut off. The sheep was lost because of itself.

A sheep loses itself in one of *five ways*.

- The sheep is attracted by something out “in the wilderness,” away from the flock of the shepherd.
- The sheep is aimless, not paying attention to what is going on.
- The sheep looks for greener pastures.

Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Proverbs 21:16.

A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.

Four things to note...

- The lost sheep was sought (v. 4). The shepherd left the ninety-nine to seek the one lost sheep.
- *The search was urgent.*
- The shepherd sought until he found the sheep.
- When the shepherd found the sheep, he embraced the sheep.

Everyone rejoiced because the shepherd had found the lost sheep.

In the Greek New Testament, the primary word for "rejoice" is chairō which means to be glad, cheerful, thrive, or "favorably disposed to God's grace".

The shepherd called the lost sheep "my sheep"—"my sheep which was lost."

There was a celebration - Luke 15:5-7

And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin: Verses 15:8-10

- **The Coin: This lady had 10 of these coins**
- **She lit a lamp**
- **The floor was thoroughly searched**
- **When found she told all her friends that the coin had been found**

In verse 10 Jesus says once again, “In the same way I tell you there is rejoicing in in the presence of Angels over one sinner who repents”

Repentance involves two turns. There is a turn away from sin and a turn toward God.

Repentance is more than sorrow. Sorrow may or may not be involved in repentance. A person may repent simply because he wills and acts to change; or a person may repent because he senses an agonizing sorrow within. But the sense or feeling of sorrow is not repentance.

Repentance is both the change of mind and the actual turning of one's life away from sin and toward God.

Prodigal Son 15:11-24

The word *prodigal* means recklessly extravagant, characterized by wasteful expenditures and lavish living.

Lk 15:22-24.

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”

Luke 15:31-32

“My son,” the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.