

Sitting at the Feet of Jesus

Luke 15

Once was Lost

Luke 15:1

Now tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

The Lost Sheep

The Lost Coin

The Prodigal Son

The common thread is that there is someone or something that is lost, but there is great rejoicing once they are found.

1. There are people who know that they are lost and want to be found.

2. There are those who don't even know that they are lost.

3. There are those who know that they are lost and don't want to be found.

(They will mostly likely stay that way unless there is some sort of crisis to make them realize they need God.)

Parable 1- The Lost Sheep

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them.

Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

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.

Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves or you may also be tempted. Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:13

Now instead, you ought
to forgive and comfort
him, so that he will not
be overwhelmed by
excessive sorrow.

Parable 2 - The Lost Coin

Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she find it?

And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin. In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over the one sinner who repents."

Jude 1:20-22

But you dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire.

Parable 3- The Prodigal Son

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, “Father, give me my share of the estate.” So he divided his property between them.

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him; ‘Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’”

So he got up and went to his
father.

But while he was still a long way
off, his father saw him and was
filled with compassion for him;
he ran to his son, threw his arms
around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, “Father, I
have sinned against heaven and
against you. I am no longer
worthy to be called your son.”

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.

“My son 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 now he is found.”

The Sheep need someone to
help them.

The Coin needs to be found.

The Prodigal is different.
No one goes after the prodigal.
Instead the Father waits and
prays.

We are all in this
parable somewhere.
The question is who
are you?

1. Lost sheep, lost coin or lost son.

2. The angry older brother.

3. The formerly lost.

4. The shepherd

5. The woman

6. The father waiting

