

## Luke Fifteen

### Luke 15:1-7

Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

And He told them this parable, saying, “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? “And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

- First two parables are about possessions—which Pharisees seem to care about more than people
- Parables include loss through wandering, circumstances and through rebellion—yet all received with joy
- Since they partnered with the Roman government against their own people—tax gatherers were despised
- The sinners have a different response than the Pharisees—to Jesus. They take sides with Christ against themselves—repenting—see Him as Lord
- He gravitates toward those who acknowledge their sin
- Received=sincere, glad, welcome

- Pharisees and scribes began to grumble—it is in the context of such grumbling that Jesus teaches the parables about the 'lost'.
- The Lord experiences joy over the repentance of the lost
- 99 are not without sin—they just see no need for repenting
- The last verse in chapter 14—He who has ears, let him hear—sets us up for who draws near to listen to Jesus
- Jesus did not withdraw from the lost in order to protect himself
- It takes all 3 parables together in this chapter to discern all that the Lord is teaching
- In the first parable—we can see in the Life of Jesus. He is the seeking Shepherd. He is taking initiative in His search for the lost.
- Parable begins with loss and ends with being found
- Shepherd bore burden of search—but invites fellowship in celebrating the 'found'.
- Until now—people believed God would welcome and receive the penitent. This is extraordinary that God seeks them out

**Luke 15:8-10**

“Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? “And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’ “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- Some say that these 10 coins were worn by the woman—the equivalent of a wedding ring
- Begins with loss and ends with the finding
- Coin=drachma=the amount of a day's wages
- Found through diligent search
- Each parable—joy is result
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> parable—picture of the work of the Holy Spirit—stirring us up to seek

**Luke 15:11-17**

And He said, "A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' And he divided his wealth between them. "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be in need. "And he went and attached himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. "And he was longing to fill his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

- Request of younger son—is like wishing his father were dead
- Younger son entitled to 1/3 of estate. Older son was to receive the double portion
- Neither son loved the father well
- Intentions of the younger son to leave not mentioned until after he receives the money

- When a son is lost—who suffers most?
- Father is seen suffering the loss of his son
- Elder son is devoted to law/service—but not to the heart of his father
- Elder son is also lost to father—same as younger—but through apostasy
- Elder brother displays the sullen joylessness of the Pharisees
- Two disasters at the same time—runs out of money and encounters a famine

**Luke 15:18-24**

‘I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; “I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.”’

“And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’

And they began to be merry.

- Younger son typifies the repentant sinner—recognizes the extent of his sin against God and his father
- Older son=scribes and Pharisees—sons of God through creation rather than redemption
- Hunger is the desire that drove the son toward home
- Best robe—sign of position

- Ring—sign of authority
- Barefoot—the condition of a slave
- Fatted calf—that which is saved for a special occasion

**Luke 15:25-32**

“Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. “And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things might be. “And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ “But he became angry, and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began entreating him. “But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you, and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a kid, that I might be merry with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ “And he said to him, ‘My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. ‘But we had to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.’”

- The estate had been divided to him—all that the father had was given to the elder sons' stewardship
- How father speaks of the younger son—'this brother of yours'
- All three parables would have challenged the heart of the listeners

# Luke Chapter Fifteen Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Contrast the story of the Prodigal Son with Genesis 45:1-15. What emotions are experienced and expressed.

## Dig:

- 1) Who is present as Jesus teaches in chapter 15?
  
- 2) How does the loss occur in each parable?
  
- 3) What happens when the 'lost' is 'found' in each parable? Why is this important?
  
- 4) How is each loss found?
  
- 5) How did each of these stories illustrate a spiritual truth?
  
- 6) How do these stories affect the invisible/heavenly realm?
  
- 7) What effect did the famine have in the story of the Prodigal Son?
  
- 8) What did the younger son find when he came to the end of his resources?

9) List everything the Father gave the younger son. What did he give to the eldest son?

10) How was rejoicing expressed when the younger son returned home?

**Discuss:**

1) What lessons do these 3 parables teach us about the heart of God?

2) Other than traditional holidays—when can we practice rejoicing together as a Church?

3) What do you learn about valuing lost things/people from this chapter?

4) Describe your thoughts about the father in the prodigal story.

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray for any prodigal sons or daughters you may know.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Have you ever lost something valuable? Did you find it? What range of emotions did you experience?
  
- 2) Have you ever wandered in your spiritual journey? How were you rescued or drawn back?
  
- 3) Did you ever run away from home? Share.
  
- 4) Have you ever lost something because you squandered a resource or an opportunity?
  
- 5) Which brother are you most like in this story? Do you identify with the father?
  
- 6) What causes you to experience joy?
  
- 7) Have you ever received an inheritance? How was it used?