

## The Parables of Jesus part 14

Various Scriptures

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” -Luke 15:10

**What is your honest view of sinners? How do you interact with those who don't value having a personal relationship with God like you? Why?**

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Our study today teaches us about God's constant pursuit of seeking and saving the lost, also known as sinners. As believer's in Jesus Christ, it is imperative that we not only agree with this mindset but we also model it for others.

*Context:* Jesus along with his disciples have been traveling throughout the area. Crowds are gathering all around him for various reasons. At one point even the tax collectors and sinners came closer to hear him. Seeing this, the Pharisees and scribes began to complain saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” In response Jesus tells them 3 parables that emphasize a special point about God's desire for us.

### **Parable of the Lost Sheep: Luke 15:4-7**

How does this relate to the other parables about the lost sheep?

\*Matthew 18:12-14; Jesus contrasted sheep to “\_\_\_\_\_”

\*John 10:1-18; Jesus contrasted sheep to the the ones who know \_\_\_\_\_

Who does Jesus contrast the sheep to in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_  
(verse 7)

**Sinner; what comes to mind when you hear this word and who do you think of?**

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*Hamartano:* Greek word for sin, means to forfeit by missing the mark, wide of the mark; suffer loss from falling short of what God approves. Those who knowingly continue in sin are doing that which is sinful and detestable in the eyes of God.

Sin is an act that \_\_\_\_\_ a moral rule or code of conduct decreed by God.

**Cross References:** Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 3:4

In light of the text, the religious leaders were very careful of staying “clean” according to the Old Testament law. In doing so they went out of their way in avoiding certain people. Luke 7:39; Acts 11:3

In contrast, Jesus took this idea of “cleanliness” lightly by touching those who had unclean diseases, avoiding unnecessary rituals, and associating with those who were rejected.

**As you reflect on the church today, what would you say hinders us from being more effective among those who need to hear about God’s grace the most?**

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Question stated: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it?”

Here we see a shepherd who is willing to \_\_\_\_\_ the ninety-nine sheep who are safe and go after the one sheep that is lost until he finds it.

**Who represents the 99 sheep who are safe?**

Righteous people who do not need to \_\_\_\_\_.

What does it mean to be righteous? “\_\_\_\_\_ with God”

**Who could represent the 1 sheep who is lost?**

The lost sinner who has not yet \_\_\_\_\_.

**How do we repent?**

Have a \_\_\_\_\_ of mind.

What happens when the shepherd finds his lost sheep? (5-6)

-He \_\_\_\_\_ puts it on his shoulders.

-He \_\_\_\_\_ others to rejoice with him.

In the same way, God is excited to carry us through life into eternity. He also encourages us to strengthen our fellowship and celebrate each other as we do His will. Verse 7

**How does the picture of rejoicing in heaven over repentance make you feel?**

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What does this parable teach us?

\*To always be willing to offer salvation to sinners regardless of who they are or what they are going through.

\*To not worry about the accusations of others, especially when you’re doing the will of God.

\*Celebrate the true repentance and salvation of others.

**Parable of the Lost Coin: Luke 15:8-10**

It is important to note the woman in the parable was not a widow and this was not money for household expenses. The likely scenario is that she received 10 silver coins as a wedding gift, provision in the case of future need. In these instances the gift was given to her from her father. As you might imagine they had sentimental value like that of a wedding ring so to lose one coin would be very distressful.

**Have you ever lost something that was extremely valuable? How did it make you feel?**

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Question stated: "What woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully **until** she finds it?"

**What kind of coin was that?**

The coin was probably either a drachma or denarius, each of these was worth about \_\_\_\_\_ day's worth of wages.

It was about half the size of a dime and could have been worn as a headpiece.

**How did she search for it?**

\*Lit a \_\_\_\_\_

\*Swept the house

\*Searched \_\_\_\_\_

The answer to the previous question is yes, in other words, if the shepherd would leave 99 sheep for 1 surely this woman will do everything it takes to find her lost coin.

**How should a church go about searching for lost souls today?**

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#1 Turn on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word.

#2 Sweep and \_\_\_\_\_ our own place

#3 Search carefully

What happens when she finds the coin? (9)

-Calls her neighbors and friends

-Invites them to \_\_\_\_\_ with her

In contrast to the religious leaders who complained when the tax collectors and sinners came near to hear Jesus, God is happy when sinners repent. Verse 10

Religious leaders said, "There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who is obliterated before God."

**Cross References:** Ezekiel 33:11; Isaiah 62:5; Zephaniah 3:17

**As we reflect on this, what are three actions we can adopt to ensure we don't give the wrong impression to those who are spiritually lost?**

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**What is the greatest lesson you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**“Joy is not necessarily the absence of suffering, it is the presence of God.”**