

Count the Cost of Sin

(Luke 15:1-32)

Step into the narrative.

i. Friends have no fear (Lk 12).

ii. Crowds count the cost of discipleship (Lk 14).

iii. Self-righteous think they don't need Jesus (Lk 15).

Big Idea: The cost of sin is higher than the cost of discipleship; so, choose discipleship while there's still time to choose.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.
² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable:

⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ 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 that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” ’ ²⁰ And he arose

and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father

said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened

calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ 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.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ”

Big Idea: The cost of sin is higher than the cost of discipleship; so, choose discipleship while there's still time to choose.

Count the cost of sin

1. The self-righteous don't value salvation (1-3).
2. God values us more than we know (4-10).
3. Sin costs more than discipleship (11-19).
4. God loves us more than we know (20-24).
5. The self-righteous miss the joy of repentance (25-32).

1. The self-righteous don't value salvation (1-3).

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable:

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Reasons sheep get lost.

- i. They're scared of something.
- ii. One left and others followed.
- iii. The shepherd got distracted.
- iv. To go look at something interesting.
- v. They need more personal space.
- vi. They weren't walking straight.

God values us more than we can imagine.

i. He lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing (v. 5).

ii. He calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me' (vv. 6, 9).

iii. Joy in heaven over one sinner who repents (vv. 7, 10).

God never gives up on us.

- i. He prioritizes lost sheep, searching for them (v. 4).
- ii. God protects found sheep, carrying them home (v. 5).
- iii. Every coin matters to God (v. 8a).
- iv. God seeks diligently until he finds us (v. 8b).

God works through us.

i. If heaven rejoices, we should too.

ii. God uses us to search for lost sheep (Rom 10:13-15).

iii. We help protect found sheep (1Pt 5:8; Acts 20:28-31).

iv. Every sheep/coin matters to us (1Co 12:12f).

3. Sin costs more than discipleship (11-19).

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Sin destroys our lives.

(like the lost sheep)

- i. He squandered his property in reckless living (v. 13).
- ii. He began to be in need (v. 14).
- iii. He took a degrading job (v. 15).
- iv. He wanted to eat with the pigs (v. 16).
- v. He finally hit rock bottom (v. 17).
- vi. He decided to return to his father (vv. 18-19).
- vii. Sin can cost us everything.

4. God will still be a loving father to us (20-24)

²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

The kingdom is open to repentant sinners.

i. At our lowest point, we look to God (v. 20).

ii. God runs to repentant sinners (v. 20b).

iii. Repentance renews our relationship with God (v. 21).

iv. God always welcomes sinners home (vv. 22-24).

5. The self-righteous miss the joy of repentance (25-32)

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Self-righteous people:

- i. Get angry when sinners repent (vv. 26-28a).
- ii. Ignore God working in their own life (v. 28b).
- iii. Trust in their own righteousness (v. 29).
- iv. Get jealous of other peoples' gifts (v. 30).
- v. Are still loved by God (vv. 31-31).

Choose to come home
while there's still time to choose.