

# Sinners and Salvation

Luke 15 – The Parables of the Lost

# Parables of the Lost Sheep and Coin

Luke 15:3-10

# The Lost Sheep

- Jesus puts the Pharisees/scribes on the defensive, asking if they would side with the lowly shepherd – 15:3-4
  - Despite having *ninety-nine* others, the shepherd valued all his sheep and left them to recover the *one* that was lost
- The shepherd rejoices with his friends after restoring the sheep – 15:5-7
  - A true shepherd knows the value of every sheep – 15:5-6
  - There is great joy in heaven when only *one* sinner repents – 15:7
  - The point and rebuke of the parable should not have been lost – Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24

# The Lost Coin

- A woman who had ten coins loses one – 15:8
  - The coin was lost by no fault of its own
  - Despite having nine others, the lost one remained very valuable – Hos. 11:7-9
- The woman rejoices with his friends after finding the coin – 15:9-10
  - This rejoicing was contrasted with the Pharisees hardness of heart to God's desire to reclaim his lost souls! – Hos. 11:7-9
  - Do we forget our once lost condition, our dependence on grace?
  - Do we rejoice in our salvation and take Christ to others?

# The Parable of the Lost and Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

# The Characters

- The **father** represents our **Father in heaven** and his attitude toward the lost. **He** is the focus and champion of the parable!
- The **prodigal son** represents the **tax-collectors and sinners** that had left their home with God for sin.
- The **older brother** represents those **self-righteous Jews** who disrespected their Father's will and rebelled, just in a different way.

# The Loss of the Prodigal Son

- The younger son, the lesser in family rank, demanded his inheritance – 15:11-13
  - This was driven by lusts and rebellion to his father's rule
  - The father *gave it to him* and allowed him to leave and throw away his life in sin.
- The pleasure of sin soon ends and famine and want follow – 15:14-16
  - After wasting his inheritance famine comes, driving him deeper into sin and want
  - He lost everything and no one would help him!

# The Prodigal Son Returns

- Only at his lowest point did this son look up – 15:17
  - He moved from freedom to earning the wages of sin!
  - If blessings do not work, God will use loss and pain to bring His children home!
- Returning meant humbling himself, repenting, and confessing his sin to his father – 15:18-19
  - His situation was out of control and had defiled him! – 1 Cor. 6:19-20
  - All sinners must realize this before they return – Prov. 28:13

# The Father's Love, Compassion, and Grace

- The son acted on his change of heart and was *greeted* and *received* by his loving father – 15:20
  - The father valued his son and watched for his return!
  - This is the difference in Jesus and the Pharisees...and Christians and the world!
- Upon articulation of his repentance, the father reacted with blessings and celebration – 15:21-24
  - Those who return are considered sons, not servants!
  - God rejoices at the return to life in Christ of even the lowliest of sinners!

# The Contempt of the Older Son

- The older son was at his job and did not know of the younger son's return – 15:25-27
- Instead of joy, the older son was angry at the father's reception and celebration and refused to participate – 15:28-30
  - This was the sinning brother who wasted his life and living! – 15:28
  - The older brother had stayed home, but his attitude of superiority and sinlessness was his undoing – 15:29
  - The older son felt slighted by the celebration – 15:30
- The father explains his right to celebrate, showing that God loves all his people, whether faithful or lost in sin! – 15:31-32