

Luke
See Jesus
Lost and Found Party
Luke 15:1-13

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 30, 2022

All three of these parables—the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Sons—have the same great plot and the same Gospel theme: something valuable has been lost, Jesus wants to find it and restore it, and when that happens, all of heaven goes crazy and celebrates in a way you’ve never seen here on this earth!

I. Do You Love the Way Jesus Loves?

Jesus has two purposes in telling these three parables:

- 1) He wants to amplify the Gospel and put on display how He came to save helpless and hopelessly lost people.
- 2) He wants to correct and clarify how often the religious and morally upright crowd actually gets in the way of sinners seeing Jesus and fails to love people the way He does!

Luke 15:1-3 “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’ ³So He told them this parable...”

These parables are His blistering response to being criticized and attacked by the “moral majority” of His day for spending time with and loving well the “wrong” kind of people.

Jesus didn’t care about His reputation because He was so focused on His mission. God hasn’t called us to spend a lifetime protecting our own reputation. If you get caught up in that, you’ll never love people the way He’s called you to love them.

Luke 15:1 “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him...”

They wanted to hear more of this “Good News” that sounded nothing like what they’d heard from the religious crowd.

Luke 15:2 “...this man receives sinners...”

Romans 16:1-2 “I commend to you our sister, Phoebe, a servant of the church... ² Receive her in the Lord.”

Jesus doesn’t just allow sinners to hang around Him hoping to catch an encouraging word. He embraces them, puts His arms around them, and pulls them in like they were family.

Love others around you as they are. Invite them to be around you. Receive them and draw them in, and it will shatter some of the stereotypes they have of Christians.

Romans 5:6, 8 “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...⁸ But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

Jesus would love sinners while they’re still looking and living very much like sinners!

II. Do You Celebrate What Jesus Does?

This chapter is punctuated with over-the-top joy as a response to each one of these lost and found situations.

Luke 15:6-7 “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.”

Luke 15:9-10 “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.”

This is the joy of almighty God Himself! It’s God who starts the celebration and sends reverberations echoing around the heavens!

Luke 15:32 “But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

Love and joy are two of the most powerful emotions in this world with the potential to shape us and motivate us. Jesus is radically redirecting them both in these three parables, saying:

- Do you love the people I love?
- Is your joy and greatest celebration focused on what I celebrate most?

When you begin to love people the way He does and celebrate what He does, it’ll change the way you live and begin to impact people around you, for the glory of God.

No other religion has a God like this who goes looking for lost sinners!

Everything in these parables convince us that He’s not a reluctant Savior, but is relentless in His pursuit of us...but you do have to repent and let Him rescue you.

Luke 15:7 “...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Luke 15:10 “...there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”