

# PARABLES OF FINDING THE “LOST”

## Quote:

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 15:6-7

## Summary

The three parables of Luke 15 are treated as one (Lk 15:3). Each adds to the one that went before it, without specific individual introduction (vv. 8, 11). They illustrate three different aspects of one subject: the work of redemption. Consider the different causes of the loss in the three parables. The sheep was lost when the shepherd allowed it to stray. The coin was lost, not through its own fault, but that of the woman who possessed it. The son was lost through deliberately, wilfully and consciously leaving the house of his generous father, and squandering the inheritance granted unto him.

## Bible Marking

**Luke 15:1** - “**publicans**” - tax-gatherers, and hated by the Jews who considered that they were acting as agents for the Romans.

“**Sinners**” - Refers to irreligious people who lived like Gentiles (Matt. 9:10,11,13; 11:19) as well as for Gentiles who were considered beyond the pale of salvation (Matt.26:45; Gal.2:15).

**Luke 15:2** - “**murmured**” - means ‘to mutter’ or ‘to grumble in a low tone’. Continued in Lk 19:7.

**Luke 15:4** - “**what man of you**” - ie identifies the shepherd who lost the sheep as the Pharisees and Scribes.

“**Lose**” - First use is Matt 2:13 - “**destroy**”. Also means to perish, or lose. The shepherds of the nation were guilty of losing the sheep, by allowing them to stray from the good pasture. See the track record of Israel’s leaders: Ezek 34:1-3,6. Not one of them would go after the lost to find him.

### Luke 15 - The Parable of Restoring the Lost

1. Criticism for association with Publicans and Sinners - Luke 15:1-2
2. Parable of the Lost Sheep - Luke 15:3-7
3. Parable of the Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10
4. Parable of the Lost Sons - Luke 15:11-32

### Key Words

1. Lose/Lost - v4 (2x), 6, 8, 9, 17 (perish), 24, 32. - Colour Red
2. Found/find - v4, 5, 6, 8, 9 (2x), 24, 32. - Colour Blue
3. Rejoice - v6, 9; rejoicing/glad - v5, 32; joy - v7, 10; merry - v23, 24, 29, 32 - Colour these Yellow

It would be left to the true shepherd - The Lord himself (Matt 15:24; Lk 19:10; Mk 6:34; Ezek 34:23).

**“Wilderness”** - A spiritual wilderness - no pasture provided by the shepherds - Jer 12:10-11. John preached in that wilderness - Isa 40:3.

Luke 15:7 - **“ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance”** - These don't exist - The Lord is commenting on the Scribes and Pharisees view of themselves. But that was not the divine view - Matt 3:1-10 - they all needed repentance.

Luke 15:8 - **“woman”** - Represents Bride of Christ - Rev 19:7.

**“Ten pieces of silver”** - Woman responsible for them, but doesn't own them. Silver - represents redemption. They belonged to her master - Christ (he bought them with a price). Therefore they represent the members of the ecclesia.

**“Light a lamp”** - See Psa 119:105. It was not her lamp, but she used it to search.

Luke 15:19 - **“No more worthy to be called thy son”** - Full repentance - He recognised his need and having been humbled by the events that befell him, he sought the Love he previously despised. He understood that we cannot claim righteousness on the basis of hereditary descent.

Luke 15:20 - **“his father saw him”** - Shows the unfailing love and mercy of the Father for even erring children. He was always on the look-out for him, seeking for him. See Jer 29:10-14; Psa 79:8. He desires our salvation - Rom. 8:30-39.

Luke 15:22 - **“Bring forth the best robe”** - The robe of righteousness - Isa.61:10.

**“A ring on his hand”** - The symbol of authority - Gen.41:42.

**“Shoes on his feet”** - The sign of status, for slaves were not allowed to wear shoes - thus indicating the badge of sonship.

Luke 15:25 - **“Elder son”** - represents the Scribe and Pharisees. See v2.

Luke 15:26 - ie has no relationship with the Father, therefore had to ask others.

Luke 15:28 - **“would not go in”** - ie to eat with repentant - cp v2.

Luke 15:29 - **“Lo these many years do I serve thee”** - Scribes and Pharisees self estimation - Lk 18:11, 18-21.

**“My friends”** - These friends were not the Father's friends. The Scribes and Pharisees were affectively the friends of the Romans - Jn 19:12.

Luke 15:30 - See Matt 9:10-11; 11:19.