



Ask, What is one thing that you have lost and found again? (Explain some of the thoughts and emotions you went through when you lost it and then when you found it.)

This is a chapter of three parables. Reminder here – parables are stories that Jesus used to convey a message using common language to teach a deeper truth. Parables are stories to explain a deeper, spiritual truth.

Jesus uses these parables here to address what the Pharisees were saying about Him. Ask, What do you think about Jesus dining with sinners? It is one thing to acknowledge them, but actually sitting and eating with them?

Here are the first two parables –

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "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? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 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.' 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. "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? 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.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:1-10

Two parables to start with:

- The lost sheep (ignorant but valuable)
- The lost coin - (inanimate but valuable)

In both of these parables, the animal/item is owned. Both of these (the sheep and the coin) really do not know any better. They do not realize that they are lost.

In this parable, Jesus makes a shift from the lost not knowing that they are lost to at least one son who eventually realizes that he is lost.

The Lost Sons (v. 11-32)

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "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! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." 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. 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.' 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. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 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.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 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. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Luke 15:11-32 ESV

In this passage, the younger son is seemingly in his right mind. He blows it all. Devises a plan to go back home. He realizes that he is lost and away from home. He goes back home.

The older son claims that the way the father treats the returning son isn't fair. The older son is lost at home and doesn't know that he is lost.

The Prodigal Sons

- Both know the father - they have a relationship with their dad
- One strayed, realized he was lost and repented (sheep and coins usually don't find their way home on their own) (he identifies his problem, confesses and repents of his decisions)
- One stayed and is lost (he doesn't grasp that the father just loves him, not for what he does, but for whose he is) (he is resentful and bitter because he does not understand love)
- The father loves both

The tax collectors and the sinners are the younger son in this context.

The Pharisees are the older brother in this context.

The great grace is that when the prodigals come home it will expose the hearts of those who stayed.

What do you think about this statement? When we cannot celebrate repentance of sin it exposes that we do not understand the gospel.

Prodigal Advice

- Repent and return
- Repent and rejoice
- Seek those who don't know they are lost
- Wait for those who do know

Which brother are you?

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.