



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 15 – Luke 15

People — Who is involved?

Those represented by the lost sheep
Those represented by the lost coin
Those represented by the lost son
Those represented by the elder brother
The Father!

Places — Where does it happen?

Jesus is in the presence of Pharisees and
Scribes probably still in Galilee but
beginning to go toward Jerusalem..
These parables could occur anywhere.

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 2 – *The immediate incentive for these parables came from the hypocrisy of the Pharisees & scribes. They objected to Jesus eating with “sinners” and He proceeded to show God’s love for the lost.*
- Vs 4 – *The Lost Sheep – shepherds were also sometimes outside the social circles of the Pharisees; shepherds were almost daily ceremonially defiled, forced to work on Sabbaths, etc. nonetheless, some of most revered Scriptures picture God as a Shepherd (Ps. 23; Isa. 40,53; etc.)*
- Vs 8 – *The Lost Coin – while the sheep was one of 100, the coin was one of 10. The coin was a *drachma*, roughly equivalent to a Roman *denarius*, about a laborer’s day’s wage.*
- Vs 12 – *The Lost Son – inheritance was usually divided among the children with the eldest receiving a “double portion” (see Deut 21:17). This son asks for inheritance before the death of his father.*
- Vs 13 – *The word “prodigal” (NKJV) is also translated “riotous” (KJV), “loose” (NASB), or “wild” (NIV).*
- Vs 15 – *His environment is with swine (unclean to Jews), indicating a pitiable condition apart from God.*
- Vs 17 – *“He came to himself” indicates a change in his distorted mentality.*
- Vs 18 – *This would not be easy. It would take humility.*
- Vs 20 – *Notice the proactive response of the father: he “had compassion, and ran” and “kissed him.”*
- Vs 21 – *Although the father ran to him, he said exactly what he had planned and humbled himself.*
- Vs 24 – *This son represents all penitent believing sinners who return to God.*
- Vs 25 – *The Self-Righteous Brother – this part of the story is clearly aimed at the Pharisees’ hypocrisy.*
- Vs 29 – *This son’s work ethic, responsibility, and faithfulness to the father are admirable.*
- Vs 29 – *His attitude is disrespectful as if to blame the father for being unfair and showing favoritism.*
- Vs 30 – *This son accused his brother of squandering his inheritance with harlots, a despicable charge.*
- Vs 32 – *The last words again reiterate the joy of the Father that the lost sinful son is returned.*

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. God loves all sinners and rejoices when we return to Him (see John 3:16).
2. Return to God requires humility on our part, however. We must repent (see Luke 13:3, 5)
3. Claiming to be righteous and looking down on those we think are less righteous is not what the Father wants from us.

