



**Synopsis**

*A snapshot of the chapter*

This is one of the most beloved chapters in the Bible. The entire chapter should be seen as a unit. Each parable is ultimately designed to set forth God's love for those who are lost, His great efforts to restore them to Himself, and His joy when they are returned. Each also deals with issues surrounding the contrasting despicable spirit of the scribes and Pharisees. The four parables describe different circumstances among the lost: the lost sheep speaks of one lost because of carelessness. The lost coin addresses the tragedy of being lost by another's fault. The lost prodigal son represents being lost by one's willful seeking of his own will. And the lost elder brother represents those who are self-righteous.

**Observation**—What do you see?

*Important Person(s):*

*Main Event(s):*

**Study Questions:**

1. *Why was the sheep lost and why would the shepherd have to go find it?*
2. *How might a human being be like a coin that is lost?*
3. *Who is the "father" in the story of the younger brother and what do we learn about Him?*
4. *Who in that day, and who today, are like the elder brother?*
5. *Why is there rejoicing in the first three parables but not in the last?*

**Questions:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.