

The Gospel of Luke

a verse-by-verse study

Session 25

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

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CHAPTER 15

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¹ Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

Luke 15:1

- *“In speaking to a large number of people (Luke 14:25), Jesus strongly challenged them regarding discipleship and commitment.*
- *His strong challenge did not drive people away; it attracted them to Jesus”.* – David Guzik

2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

Luke 15:2

- This 'accusation' leads to some of the most well-known parables of Jesus
 - The parable of the lost sheep
 - The parable of the lost coin
 - The parable of the lost son
- Each once challenges the Pharisees notion of salvation and their view of 'sinners'
- Each also shows God's compassion for those who have gone astray, and that He initiates the mechanism by which they might return

2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

Luke 15:2

- *“The religious leaders of Jesus’ day divided humanity into two classes: the unclean and the righteous. They decided to live, as much as possible, in complete separation from the unclean. Some rabbis of Jesus day took this idea so seriously that they refused to teach the unclean God’s word” - Morris*
- *“Let not a man associate with the wicked, not even to bring him the law.” - cited by C. M. Pate*

- 3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,
- 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?
- 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- 6 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.

Luke 15:3-6

7 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 15:7

- **Note:**

- It is the Shepherd who goes in search of the sheep
- The sheep could not find its own way home
- The other 99 were obviously secure
 - Or the Shepherd would not have left them!
- It is God's will that sinners are saved! (Ezek 33:11)
 - Hence the joy in heaven
- The lost sheep is carried home!

8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Luke 15:8-9

¹⁰ Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 15:10

- F.F. Bruce suggested that possibly, this coin was held with several others on a silver chain worn round the head as a mark of a married woman.
- It was a precious ornament to the woman, and made the loss all the more severely felt.
- This wasn't just about the monetary value of the coin, it was worth far more!
- Note again the joy of a repentant sinner!
 - Contrast to the Jewish mindset



11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

Luke 15:11-13

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

Luke 15:14-16

- After the initial euphoria there will always be a famine in 'that land' – it will never deliver what you hoped for

Sin

- It will take you further than you wanted to go!
- Keep you longer than you wanted to stay!
- Cost you more than you wanted to pay!

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Luke 15:17-19

- Note: the 'real you' was not the one craving satisfaction!
- The 'flesh life' vs. 'the spirit'
 - YOU are in the middle! Gal 5:17
 - The 'worst that God has is better than the best the world has!

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

Luke 15:20-21

- **Real contrition and repentance are the marks of a changed life**

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:22-24

- Though the son lost his inheritance, he never lost his sonship

25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

Luke 15:25-27

28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

Luke 15:28-30

31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Luke 15:31-32

- There was a sense in which the older son was obedient, yet far from his father's heart. In this sense he was a perfect illustration of the religious leaders who were angry that Jesus received tax collectors and sinners. *"His story reveals the possibility of living in the father's house and failing to understand the father's heart."* (Morgan)

He Who Has Ears...

- In each of the parables, the message to the tax collectors and sinners was clear:
 - Repent, come home to the father.
- The message to the religious leaders was also clear:
 - Be happy when the lost are found, when they repent and come home to the father.

The Gospel of Grace

- *“The truth here taught is just this: that mercy stretches forth her hand to misery, that grace receives men as sinners, that it deals with demerit, unworthiness and worthlessness; that those who think themselves righteous are not the objects of divine compassion, but the unrighteous, the guilty and the undeserving, are the proper subjects for the infinite mercy of God; in a word, that salvation is not of merit but of grace.” - Spurgeon*

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To be continued...

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