



The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and The Lost Son

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In Luke 15, three wonderful parables were given by Jesus as a result of the judgmental attitudes of the organized religious Jewish leaders.

Read the entire chapter first. As Jesus preached, "...the publicans and sinners..." drew near to HEAR him. But "...the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying [TO THE CROWD], This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (LUKE 15:1-2).



They spoke out of envy, and there are many "Christian" people today who are very much like these Scribes and the Pharisees, who "...trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others" (LUKE 18:9).

The Lost Sheep - Jesus Christ

Jesus, instructing them using every-day language says, "...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, [AND WILL CONTINUE] until he find it" (LUKE 15:4)?

God is seeking every soul today that IS LOST and held captive by "...the CARES of this world, and the deceitfulness of RICHES, and the LUSTS of other things ENTERING IN" (MARK 4:19).



"And when he hath FOUND IT, he layeth it ON HIS SHOULDERS, REJOICING" (LUKE 15:5). What a wonderful picture of salvation, because Jesus, the Son of God "...hath BORNE [TO LIFT] our griefs, and CARRIED our sorrows" (ISAIAH 53:4) on his cross.

"And when he COMETH HOME [THE PARADISE OF GOD] he calleth together his friends and neighbours [BELIEVERS WHO ARE IN HEAVEN NOW], 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, more than over

ninety and nine just persons, which NEED NO REPENTANCE" (LUKE 15:6-7).

The Lost Coin - Holy Ghost

This parable points to the tender workings of the Holy Spirit as he searches for souls through the Word of God.

"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" (LUKE 15:8-10)?

Silver is valuable and precious, and so is MAN in the sight of God. This woman thoroughly searched her house for the lost piece by lighting a candle, for it was DARK.

The Holy Spirit of God also "...SEARCHETH ALL THINGS, yea, the DEEP THINGS of God" (1 COR. 2:10). "For the word of God is QUICK, and POWERFUL, and SHARPER than any twoedged sword, PIERCING even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a DISCERNER of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (HEBREWS 4:12).

"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. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy IN THE PRESENCE of the angels of God OVER ONE SINNER that REPENTETH" (LUKE 15:8-10).



ALL who die in the Lord by faith are with the Father in heaven, and when souls on earth REPENT to God confessing their sins, there is JOY in heaven among believers. Why? Because...

"...MANY are called, but FEW are chosen" (MATTHEW 22:14). "...STRAIT is the gate, and NARROW is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it" (MATTHEW 7:14).

Jesus said to "STRIVE TO ENTER IN at the strait gate: for MANY, I say unto you, will SEEK TO ENTER IN, and shall not be able" (LUKE 13:24), because "...EXCEPT YE REPENT, ye shall ALL likewise perish" (LUKE 13:3).

Today, the wisdom of God is still calling to ALL that will hear; "...she UTTERETH her voice in the streets: she CRIETH in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she UTTERETH HER WORDS, saying, HOW LONG, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge" (PROVERBS 1:20-22)? "But he that sinneth against me WRONGETH HIS OWN SOUL: all they that hate me LOVE DEATH" (PROVERBS 8:36).

The Lost Son - God the Father

The two sons represents two classes of men on this earth: the Jew and the Gentile, while the "father" represents God Himself. God came to the Jew FIRST, and to some extent, they still honor Him.

But the younger, the Gentile, is sowing his wild oats: "...A certain man had two sons: And the YOUNGER of them said to his father, Father, GIVE ME the portion of goods that falleth to me" (LUKE 15:11-12).

No doubt, the father tried to persuade his youngest son to reconsider his decision, but as with most youth, he was rebellious and determined, so "...he [THE FATHER] divided unto THEM his living."

"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 RITOUS LIVING" (LUKE 15:13).

Most good parents try to prepare their children for the world by warning them of what to avoid, because THEY THEMSELVES have learned from experience and observation during THEIR lifetimes.

But we do know that, "FOOLISHNESS is bound in the heart of a child" (PROVERBS 22:15), and today, YOUTH still put more confidence in friendships and the ENTERTAINMENT media rather than the guidance of their own parents.



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It is heartbreaking to see YOUTH ignore the counsel of their parents who gave them birth and cared for them, and see them become self-willed and deviant.

This young man had heard about this "**FAR COUNTRY**" and was determined to get there, because "**NOT MANY DAYS AFTER**" receiving his substance, he left for his planned destination.

His craving's for finding something new and exciting in "**A FAR COUNTRY**" instead of home led to something he did not expect: while having a grand old time through "**RIOTOUS LIVING**," he "**WASTED his substance**."

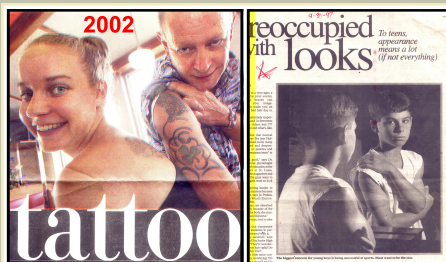


The word "riotous" means "dissolutely," and "dissolute" means "lacking moral restraint; indulging in sensual pleasures or vices."

"*And when he had **SPENT ALL**, there arose **A MIGHTY FAMINE** in **THAT** land [**NOT IN THE LAND OF HIS HERITAGE**]; and he began to be in **WANT**" (LUKE 15:14).*

The Word of God declares that "...childhood and youth are vanity [**EMPTINESS**]" (ECCLES. 11:10), and yet our sitcoms, TV shows and movies portray youth as having wisdom, knowledge, and experience that surpasses their elders. But in reality, "youth" is rarely prepared for the unexpected, like "**A MIGHTY FAMINE**."

So he "...went and **JOINED HIMSELF** to a citizen of **THAT** country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would **FAIN** [**TO SET THE HEART UPON; TO LONG FOR**] have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; and **NO MAN GAVE UNTO HIM**" (LUKE 15:15-16).



Many of our children who have been taught the Word of God in their youth have JOINED THEMSELVES to the citizens of drink and drugs; crime and foolishness; to things contrary to the wisdom given to them in their youth.

Most young people must travel their determined journey before they begin to realize that **ALL THEIR PATHS** lead to a dead end.



"*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! I will **ARISE** and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, **I HAVE SINNED** against heaven, and before thee, And am **NO MORE WORTHY** to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants*" (LUKE 15:17-19).*

Every man or woman, boy or girl **MUST** come to the point in their life when they humble themselves before a living God and make the decision to, "...**STAND ye in the ways, and SEE, and ASK for the OLD PATHS, where is THE GOOD WAY, and walk therein**" (JEREMIAH 6:16).

When this young man remembered his life as it was before he took his journey, and was CONVINCED that he had made a mistake in leaving. He prepared in his heart to go to his father and REPENT.

So, "...he **AROSE**, and came to his father. But when he was yet **A GREAT WAY OFF**, his father **SAW HIM**" (LUKE 15:20). This father was LOOKING for his son every day, just as many parents today are LOOKING for the return of their children they love.

True parents are HOPING their children will REMEMBER the guide of their youth,

and the TRUTH that was taught to them.

Just look at the true love on display when his father saw him from a great distance "...and had **COMPASSION**, and **RAN**, and **FELL ON HIS NECK**, and **KISSED HIM**" (LUKE 15:20).

God, our heavenly Father is LOOKING from a distance for us too, waiting patiently for us to RETURN to Him. If we will just COME to Him, He will RUN to us, and have **COMPASSION** on us and forgive us our sins.

"*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. 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**: and bring hither **THE FATTED CALF**, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this **MY SON** was **DEAD**, and **IS ALIVE AGAIN**; he was **LOST**, and is **FOUND**. And they began to be **MERRY**"* (LUKE 15:21-24).

God knows the intent of your heart when you tell Him you are sorry for being a sinner. The publican SIMPLY uttered seven words when he prayed to God: "God be **MERCIFUL** to me **A SINNER**" (LUKE 18:13).

The "...elder son..." who "drew nigh to the house" became "...**ANGRY**, and would not go in" when "he heard musick and dancing" (LUKE 15:25-32). His father came and explained to him: "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was **MEET** [**NECESSARY**] 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 15:25-32).

When the Jews rejected the Gospel, but saw the multitudes of Gentiles embracing it, "...they were filled with envy" and Paul said, "seeing ye **PUT IT FROM YOU**, and judge yourselves **UNWORTHY** of everlasting life, lo, we **TURN** to the Gentiles" (ACTS 13:45-46).

Religion today follows the same pattern laid down by the religious Jews in these parables and care nothing for the LOST, but they who are born of the Spirit REJOICE when a sinner finally REPENTS. Are YOU lost?