



Does Jesus *Love* Sinners?



Text: Luke 15:1-10 NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends: Have you ever experienced the feeling of losing something valuable – the feelings can be:

- Sadness – *what will I do without it!*
- Frustration – *where is it!*
- Regret – *why wasn't I more careful!*

We each value things differently. For example, *beauty is in the eye of the beholder*, in other words, beauty is not objective – *seen by everyone*, but subjective – *a matter one's own opinion*.

1. **Different Values:** At the end of **Luke 14**, Jesus said, “**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**” Now, in **Luke 15**, notice that two groups of people were near Jesus:

- ♦ People known to be sinners – *were near to **listen**.*
- ♦ People known to be leaders – *were near to **complain**.*

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near Jesus to listen to Him [*“coming” – implies a common*

occurrence]. ² And both the Pharisees and the scribes **began to complain, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”**

- a. The Sinners Listened: Why? **They noticed that Jesus was different:** ♦He loved them, *so He cared about them.* ♦They detected Jesus’ genuine love and care, *so they listened to Him.* // What vibe or feeling are **we** giving to **others**?
- b. The Leaders Complained: Why? They noticed that Jesus valued the sinners. **The leaders thought they** ♦*were good and valuable in God’s sight.* **The leaders thought the sinners** ♦*were bad and worthless in God’s sight.* // *Let us always discover and take Jesus’ point of view!*

2. **The Lost Sheep:** ³ **And so He told them** *[both the sinners and the leaders]* **this parable...** // Why?

- Jesus wanted the leaders to see their need for God’s forgiveness and repent. Then, *as the shepherds of God’s people*, He wanted them to care about the lost sheep by ♦seeking them, ♦finding them, and ♦restoring them.
 - Jesus wanted the sinners to understand how highly they were valued by God.
- a. Thorough Searching: ⁴ **“What man among you** *[implying – every man among you]*, **if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the other ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?** // On an earthly level, all responsible shepherds would leave their 99

with another shepherd¹ and keep searching for the lost sheep until he found it. The lost sheep are the unrepentant sinners. Though they are unrepentant, *the diligent search points to their value in God's sight!*

- b. Much Rejoicing: ⁵ **And when he has found it, he puts it on his shoulders, rejoicing.** ⁶ **And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep that was lost!'** // The finding of the lost sheep brings ♦**joy** to the shepherd and ♦**relief** to the sheep. The shepherd does not drive the sheep home but, amazingly, *he carries it!* The task is not easy, *since sheep can weigh between 100 and 350 pounds, but* ♦he does it with joy and ♦calls his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him!
- c. Application: ⁷ **I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.** // For all of us who are members of God's kingdom – *let us rejoice!* However, when someone is *lost and hell-bound, and then found and heaven-bound*, **LET US GREATLY REJOICE!!**

3. **The Lost Coin**: This parable is very similar to the lost sheep; however, *the sheep-searcher was a **man***, while here *the coin-searcher is a **woman***.²

¹ "Normal Palestinian practice would include more than one shepherd to watch the sheep..." Arthur A. Just Jr., Concordia Commentary, Luke (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1997), 2:589.

² The two parables could point to typical way of life at the time of Jesus – the men working outside the home and earning the income, with the women working at home and managing the affairs of the home.

- a. Thorough Searching: ⁸ **“Or what woman [implying – every woman among you], if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? // 2,000 years ago, an unskilled worker was paid one silver coin. Today, an unskilled worker is paid about \$100. If you had \$1,000 and lost \$100, can you imagine your thorough search to find it?”**³
- b. Much Rejoicing: ⁹ **And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found the coin which I had lost!’ // Today, most neighbors lead separate lives, but, long ago, they wept together and rejoiced together. May the LORD grant us ♦closer and ♦more beneficial relationships with our neighbors!**
- c. Application: ¹⁰ **In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” // Repentance is essential: “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish (Lk. 13:3). So...**
- i. Let us live with ongoing sorrow and trust!
 - ii. Let us show love and care to the lost ones!
 - iii. Let us greatly rejoice when a lost one repents!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *TYSM for loving us and finding us!*
Please grant us *heartfelt* searching, finding, and rejoicing!

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³ When silver dollars were in circulation in the US (1794 to the 1930’s), an unskilled worker was paid the equivalent of about 1 silver dollar/day.