

The Parable of the Lost Sheep



Luke 15:1-32

- In the Book of Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven.
- According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”
- Purpose: To assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found Christ teaching.
- Objective: To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.
- Goal: To allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.

○ The Parables that have been taught

- The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)
- The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32)
- The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)
- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price” (Matthew 13:45-46)
- The Parable of the Dragnet (Matthew 13:47-51)
- The Parable of the Householder (Matthew 13:51-53)
- The Parable of the Wineskins (Luke 5:34-39, Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22)
- The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:12-26)
- The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
- The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- The Parable of the Pompous Guest (Luke 14:1-14)

4. You will see yourself through one or more of these parables.

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Luke 15:1-32

- Luke gives three of the most recognized and beloved parables in the Bible. These three parables reveal three amazing things about God: (Luke 15:1-32)
 1. God's love for the lost sinner. (vs. 1-7)
 2. God searching for the lost sinner. (vs. 8-10)
 3. God rejoicing for the lost sinner that repents and returns home. (vs. 11-32)
- Today we will begin to study and examine all three of these powerful parables and the lessons we can learn and grow from them. (Luke 15:1-7)

- Jesus Christ hears the accusations from the Pharisees and Scribes (vs. 1-2)
 - (vs. 1-2) – “Then “all” the tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes, complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eat with them.”
 - 1. The first two groups of people were the “tax collectors and sinners” who genuinely came to Jesus to hear and receive a message from Jesus.
 - Tax collectors or Publicans worked for the Roman government. (vs. 1)
 - Publicans were considered wealthy non-Jewish men who was responsible for the taxes in a particular Roman district.
 - Tax collectors were Jewish men who were hired by the Publicans to collect money levied by the Roman government upon the Jewish people which included land tax, poll tax, and tax for the operation in the Temple.
 - They were despised and were called sinners among the Jewish people due to their greed and oppressive behavior. (Luke 3:12-13)
 - Sinners were known in Jesus day as immoral, unrighteous and known for not keeping the law.

- The term refers to a person who rejects Jesus Christ and remain living in a lifestyle of sinful behavior and pleasures.
 - Jesus was known to eat with tax collectors and sinners and even chose Matthew, who was a tax collector, as one of His disciples (Matthew 9:9-13).
 - Jesus states His reason for coming to earth, was not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mark 2:13-17)
2. The second group of people were the “Pharisees and scribes”. (vs. 2)
- Pharisees were known as religionists or religious leaders who observed all 613 laws of God.
 - They believed that the only way to God was keeping the law.
 - They rejected people such as tax collectors, sinners, prostitutes, liars, thieves, murderers and required that other Jewish leaders have nothing to do with them.
 - Scribes were known as teachers or scribes of the Pharisees who interpreted the law.
 - Both the Pharisees and Scribes complained openly that “This Man,” referring to Jesus, lowers Himself by being found in the company with these sinners is beneath him. (vs. 2)
 - These sinners were to be rejected, avoided at all costs and no one with their status should ever be found in the company of them.
 - They were offended that “This Man” who taught in the temple and the synagogues would receive sinners and eat with them.
 - Jesus called them both hypocrites and blind leaders, due to their desire only to follow God through tradition, appearance and observance of the law, but not in their hearts. (Matthew 15:1-14)
 - Jesus was in the world to reach the lost sinner for God.
 - Jesus was not of the world or living a worldly life just like the lost sinner.
 - The same should be true for all believers. No believer should be in the world with lost sinners and both their lifestyle and conversations are worldly. (2 Corinthians 6:11-18, Ephesians 4:25-32, Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 3:13-17)