

The Lost Sheep And The Lost Coin

Luke 15:1-10

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 3 Lesson 7

Supplemental Texts

Matt 18:12-14

Focus Verse

“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?” – Luke 15:4

Introduction

The Jewish religious leaders wondered with contempt why Jesus attended to sinners. They would have preferred Jesus spending time with them, considering their societal status, although they always opposed Him, and He always told them the truth. They deserted the role of leading men to God, but Jesus focused on leading men to God. It turned out that they did not know who Jesus was, neither did they know what His mission on earth was all about.

Deeper Look

This Man Receives Sinners – Luke 15:1-3

Seeing that the publicans (tax collectors) and sinners (outcasts: persons expelled from the synagogue) in their numbers gravitated to hear Jesus Christ, the Pharisees and the Scribes were offended. Surely, they had no desire for the souls of their people but to saddle them with rules (Matt 23:4; Luke 11:46). The people they regarded as “rejected” were the ones Jesus came for.

A Hundred Sheep – Luke 15:4-7

This story shows the extent to which a shepherd of a flock would go to rescue his lost sheep. Jesus used this story to explain to His critics that His sole mission, as a Shepherd, was to rescue the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 15:24). It seemed the religious leaders did not appreciate their duty to the Jews (Matt 9:36). When a sheep is lost, it is unable to fend for itself, nor find its way back to its owner. So, the shepherd searches for it and rejoices when he finds his lost sheep. This is true with God. He uses all His heavenly resources to seek and bring the lost back to His fellowship.

Ten Pieces Of Silver – Luke 15:8-10

This second story is similar to the first. Out of ten coins, one was lost. The owner, to recover the coin, diligently searched for it by lighting the candle and sweeping the whole room. Her joy after recovering the coin is likened to the joy of our Great Shepherd and Owner when a lost soul returns to Him. Rescuing sinners is Jesus’ business in the world (Matt 18:11; Luke 19:10).

Questions

1. Give the reasons, if any, why the publicans and sinners would come to hear the teaching of Jesus.
2. Why were the Pharisees and the Scribes displeased about seeing Jesus welcoming sinners? What did these religious leaders fail to realize about their duties to the Jews? How can we apply the religious leaders' attitude to us today?
3. Why was it difficult for the Jewish religious leaders to recognize Jesus, the Messiah, and His ministry? Would they have partnered with His ministry if they had known? Why? How can we partner with Jesus in our world today?
4. How could a shepherd lose a sheep? What would be the natural response of a shepherd to find a lost sheep? In the parable, what did the sheep represent? In light of your answer, what value should be placed on the "lost sheep"? Explain.
5. How is the parable of the lost coin similar or dissimilar to the parable of the lost sheep? Do you think Jesus rightly rebuked the grumbling religious leaders? Why?
6. What do these parables suggest about who is rejoicing when a sinner repents? Knowing this, what should be your disposition when a sinner repents?
7. Do you think there are people who need to be searched for and saved? How could you help them meet the Savior?

Personal Meditation

There is a great joy in heaven when a sinner repents! We know this because Jesus declares it (Luke 15:7,10). He came from heaven, He knows all about heaven, and He reveals heaven to us (John 3:13). We must then rejoice with a person who turns away from sin and follows Christ. And, if the mind of Jesus is in us, what gladdens Jesus should gladden us.

The two parables given are clear to understand; we do not need to debate them, as a result. In both cases, we see that there is a great value placed on the sheep by its shepherd, and on the coin by its owner; hence, the diligence with which they searched for their belonging until they found them. If much value were placed on the lost sheep and coin with no souls, and much effort expended in their recovery, then imagine the value our Savior places on us (Matt 10:31), and the work He did to rescue us from sin and death (1 Pet 1:18-20).

It should encourage us that Jesus will not leave anyone to wander about from His care. This is particularly true for all sinners. He loves them and will continue to woo them unto Himself.

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Luke 15:1-3
Tuesday	Luke 15:4-5
Wednesday	Luke 15:6-7
Thursday	Luke 15:8-10
Friday	Matt 18:12-14
Saturday	John 3:16; 10:10-11



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