

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

**Lesson 11 – The Parable of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin**

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**Luke 15:1-10**

**Introduction**

The parables of chapter 15 were taught in response to the Pharisee's and scribe's attitudes. They did not like the idea of the messiah associating himself with people they viewed as sinners. These religious leaders had a lot of misconceptions about who God was, who Jesus was, and who the Messiah figure was supposed to be. These parables exposed their false thinking; and teaches us about the nature of God and Jesus' work.

The Parables in this chapter depicts the **father's love** and the extent that He will go to bring back His lost children.

**Chapter Breakdown:**

- ✓ Luke 15: 3-7 Parable of the lost sheep
- ✓ Luke 15: 8-10 Parable of the lost coin
- Luke 15: 11-32 Parable of the lost son

Luke 15:1-2 Who are the different groups of people mentioned in this passage? Why would Luke mention that there were tax collectors and sinners (Luke 5:30; 7:34)?

*What was the job of the tax collector, and for whom did he work (Luke 19:1-10)? What would be a modern day example? Talk about what drew/draws you to Jesus. Pray for some people that you wish to see drawn to Jesus.*

**V2:** *Why do you think the Pharisees were upset by Jesus' inclusivity of tax collectors and "notorious sinners"? The Pharisees and scribes didn't care about the lost, they had written them off*

What does it mean to "**grumble**"? What do you think makes a person have a grumbling spirit?

What are some things that have caused you to grumble in the past couple of weeks?

Read Phil. 2:14-16. Why does Paul say that we are not to grumble or argue?

What did Jesus do with the tax collectors and sinners?

How is this a model for us? How can we practice this same thing?

What prevented the Pharisees from receiving sinners and eating with them?

What are some barriers that you have that keep you from reaching out to those who sin?

**Parable of the Lost sheep:** Luke 15:3-7

Identify the Main Characters:

1. Shepherd: .....
2. Lost Sheep: .....
3. 99 Sheep .....
4. Friends & Neighbor v6 .....

Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep to show that **the Kingdom of God is accessible to all**, even those who were sinners or strayed from God's path. He uses the example of a shepherd (Jesus) who has 100 sheep and one goes missing. The shepherd leaves the 99 others and searches high and low for the lost sheep.

*Where do we see repentance in the parable of the lost sheep? How are we like sheep (Isaiah 53:6)? We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*Ps.100:3 .... we are His people, the sheep of His Pasture.*

If you are the lost one, you can be sure He's searching for you and never giving up. Just say the word. He's waiting with open arms to pick you up and carry you home.

*What has caused you to stray from the flock in your life? How did Christ come and find you?*

John 10:11 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"*

When one of the sheep wanders away from his shepherd, **it represents a person who wanders from Jesus by choosing to lead an evil or sinful life according to worldly pleasures.** Jesus doesn't stop that person from wandering because God loves us so much that He gave us free will to make our own choices in life.

But He never gives up on the person who walks away from Him, no matter how many others He has by His side. He still loves and misses and wants the lost one to return. Having that one person return back home to Jesus is cause for great celebration.

***What does the parable of the lost sheep teach us? What is the moral of the parable of the Lost sheep?***

- God's Will is to bring all sinners home to Him. That includes you. You matter to Him. Every last person matters to Him.
- The moral of the Parable of the Lost Sheep is all about Jesus' love for us. God loves you so much There's nothing you can do that will stop Him from loving you.
- The moment you choose to turn to Him, He'll open His arms and celebrate your return. His greatest joy is having one of His lost return home.
- Matt.9:9-12. Jesus did not pitch a tent and ask people to come but early in His Ministry He went after the lost.

*How does the parable of the lost sheep relate to us today as a church?*

For Example, if we're part of a congregation of 100 people and 1 lady stops showing up, how should we respond? Do we say, "Well we've got 99 others and I'm sure we can pick up one or two more from somewhere else!"

V7: *"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."*

**Parables of the Lost Coin: 15:8-10**

*"Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins [each one equal to a day's wages] and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her [women] friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I found the lost coin!' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents [that is, changes his inner self—his old way of thinking, regrets past sins, lives his life in a way that proves repentance; and seeks God's purpose for his life]."*

*Any similarities between the woman & the shepherd?*

The emphasis of this story is on the woman's zeal.

She searched everywhere to find her coin. She virtually brought out search lights and rescue dogs to find what she knew was missing. God finds us, no matter the remoteness of our location. If we work underground in mines or live on the plains or travel the seas, He knows just when we realize that we are lost. Nothing gets past Him. No one is too insignificant for His attention.

**Conclusion:**

*How much effort did each of the lost ones (the sheep or coin) put into being found? Nothing!*

The coin was lost; it was the woman who began and completed the search. The sheep was lost; there is not so much as a mention of it crying out for help. The shepherd started and finished the rescue. These stories tell us about our Finder – our God –our Savior! God wants sinners to turn from their sin and return to Him.

1 Timothy 2:4-5 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.