

Parables of Luke (NCC Equip Class January-March 2017)

Session #8: March 5, 2017

“The Parable of the Lost Sheep”

Luke 15:3-7

Introduction:

Review:

List the three parables of Luke 15:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Key Theme of All 3 Parables of Luke 15:

God and Heaven Rejoice Over the Repentance and Reclamation of Even One Lost Sinner!

What little instruction does Jesus give at the end of His sermon (14:35b)?

Who obeys His instruction (15:1)?

What was the attitude of the Pharisees and Scribes toward “sinners” and “the people of the land”?

Reasons Why Christ Told This Parable:

- 1) To Prove to the Pharisees that Their Hatred Toward the Lost is Wicked and Ungodly
- 2) To Express to the Crowds Listening In That God Loves to See Sinners Repent – Giving Them Even More Motivation to Repent

I. Something Lost (3-4a)

Briefly explain the significance of shepherds and sheep in their culture:

What will happen to a lost sheep if not found? _____ Why?

Lost = “appolumai” – Which could be translated: _____

How is a lost (unsaved) person like a lost sheep?

II. The Search (4b)

How long will the shepherd search for the sheep?

Explain the extent with which the shepherd will go in his search for this lost sheep:

According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:20 – how passionate should we be in our proclamation of the Gospel to the Lost?

III. Eureka! (5)

Explain how the shepherd carries the sheep home:

IV. Joy (5b-7)

Instead of anger at the lost sheep - what is the shepherd’s emotion upon finding him?

Jesus Christ Came to Us When We Were Lost; Found Us; and Sacrificed Greatly to Save Us. And Yet, He Never Complained About It and Never Complained to Us!

After arriving home with the sheep, what does the shepherd do?

➤ What does he say?

If you had one wish, what would you wish for?

A) Repentant Sinners Provoke Heaven to Rejoice (7a)

Note: Luke 15:7 is the Point of the Parable!

What does heaven do when a sinner repents?

Besides God and the angels, who else might be rejoicing in heaven?

B) The Self-Righteous Give Heaven No Reason to Rejoice (7b)

“Ninety-nine righteous persons” – Do NOT represent Christians. Whom do they represent?

Who needs to repent?

Those “who need no repentance” = People who “have no use for repentance” = _____

What appropriate symbol did the early Christians use to depict Christ?

Parable:

“The Lost Sheep”

Text:

Luke 15:3-7

Context: Luke 14:35b; Luke 15:1-2

Representations in the Parable:

- 1) Shepherd = Christ/God
- 2) Lone Lost Sheep = Lost Sinner
- 3) Found Sheep = Sinner That Repents
- 4) Rejoicing Community of the Shepherd (“friends and neighbors”) = Heaven
- 5) “Ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance” = Pharisees/Scribes (Cf. 15:2)

Point of the Parable:

God and Heaven Rejoice Over the Repentance and Reclamation of Even One Lost Sinner!

Reasons Why Christ Told This Parable:

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Patterns to Notice:

- 1) Something is Lost
- 2) Someone Searches for the Lost Item
- 3) The Lost One is Recovered
- 4) And Then There is Joy and Celebration

Applications:

- 1) Understand that God Desires to See Sinners Repent
- 2) Repent of Your Sin
- 3) Join with the Good Shepherd and Invite Sinners to Repent