

TRUTH STORIES

PARABLES OF JESUS

LOST & FOUND

LUKE 15

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all **gathering** around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man **welcomes** sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:1-2

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a **hundred** sheep and loses **one** of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the **lost** sheep until he **finds** it?” Luke 15:3-4

“And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘**Rejoice** with me; I have **found** my **lost** sheep.’ 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.” Luke 15:5-7

“Or suppose a woman has **ten** silver coins and loses **one**...” (Luke 15:8-10)

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had **two** sons...” (Luke 15:11-16)

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have **sinned** against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ So he got up and went to his father.” Luke 15:17-20a

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was **filled** with **compassion** for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20b

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have **sinned** against heaven and against you. I am **no longer worthy** to be called your son.’” Luke 15:21

“But the father said to his servants, ‘**Quick!** Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was **dead** and is **alive** again; he was **lost** and is **found**.’ So they began to **celebrate**. Luke 15:22-24

“The older brother became **angry** and refused to go in.” Luke 15:28a

“So his father went out and **pleaded** with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been **slaving** for you and **never disobeyed** your orders. Yet you **never gave me** even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has **squandered** your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’” Luke 15:28b-30

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always **with** me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was **dead** and is **alive** again; he was **lost** and is **found**.’” Luke 31-32

THOUGHTS & TAKEAWAYS

God could not love you _____.

And nothing you ever do will cause Him to love you _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Please read Luke 15:1-2. What type of people were typically drawn to Jesus? Why do you think that is?
2. Please read Luke 15:3-10. Jesus told the grumbling Pharisees a parable about a lost sheep and another about a lost coin. What is God concerned about? What do we learn about His heart for people? What is the joy experienced in being found and what is the joy experienced in the finding of the lost?
3. Please read Luke 15:11-32. How does the father’s response to both of his sons reflect the heart of God for us?
4. What do you believe about God’s reaction to your mistakes, failures, and times of rebellion? Do you tend to draw near to Him or stay away until you can clean up my act?