



Luke 15

Why the Long Game Matters

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The Setting and the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1–7)

- 1 Luke says these parables begin because the Pharisees complained that Jesus “welcomes sinners and eats with them.” What assumptions about God, holiness, and people might have made that behavior seem so offensive?
- 2 In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd leaves ninety-nine to search for one “until he finds it.” What does that image reveal about the way God values people—and how does that challenge the way we tend to measure worth or success?

The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8–10)

- 3 The woman lights a lamp and searches carefully until the coin is found, then calls her neighbors to celebrate. What does this parable reveal about God’s persistence and the joy heaven feels when someone is restored?
- 4 In both the sheep and coin stories, the search and celebration seem excessive from a practical standpoint. Why does grace often look inefficient or extravagant to people who are thinking in terms of fairness or results?

The Lost Sons (Luke 15:11–32)

- 5 The younger son plans to return home as a servant, but the father runs to him and restores him as a son. What does this moment reveal about the nature of grace and the way God restores people?
- 6 The older brother stayed, worked hard, and obeyed—yet he is the one standing outside the celebration. What does his reaction reveal about how resentment or self-righteousness can create distance from God?
- 7 The father goes out to both sons—the rebellious one and the resentful one. What does this tell us about the breadth of God’s pursuit and the kinds of estrangement God is trying to heal?
- 8 The story ends without telling us whether the older brother ever joins the celebration. Why do you think Jesus leaves the ending unresolved—and where might we see ourselves in that unfinished moment?

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