

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Covenant Presbyterian Church

LUKE 15

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Introduction: In the Scripture God reveals his plan, the only story with a happy ending

John 14 ⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Luke 15:2 Like Father, Unlike Son:

² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

Ezekiel 34:1–10 (ESV) ³⁴ The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?' ³ You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴ The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵ So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. ⁶ My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

⁷ "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

Luke 15:3-7 Like Father, Like Shepherd

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Ezekiel 34:11–19 (ESV) ¹¹ "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷ "As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸ Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹ And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?"

John 10:11-15 I am the good shepherd.

Luke 15:5 he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ...he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying...'Rejoice with me...'

Luke 15:8-10 Like Father, Like Daughter

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

We should be like raiders in search of great treasure, only the treasure we seek are the lost souls of vulnerable sheep....Believers should be engaging the lost in meaningful relationships....We withdraw from the multitudes for fear of compromising our testimony. As a result, there is no one around to testify to! Evangelism requires time and energy, like the shepherd's and woman's search....Some searches even take years, but our Lord calls us to get out among people and build the relationships that allow us to draw others to God. *Darrell L. Bock, NIV Appl. Comm. p409.*

Luke 15:11-32 Like Father, Unlike Sons

Key terms: Patri (**father**) **11x** 15:12, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; Apolese (**lost**) **8x** 15:4, 6, 8, 9, 17, 24, 32; Eure (**find, found**) **8x** 15:4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 24, 32; Kara, kairw, sugkara **6x** (**rejoicing/be glad** 15:5, 32; **joy** 15:7, 10; , **rejoice** 15:6, 9); Euphranthrw (**celebrate**) **4x** 23, 24, 29, 32

¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. Literally: *And he said, a certain man was having two sons...*

At least three things have been often been out of balance as the church has interpreted this parable:

- 1/ We haven't looked at the whole chapter in its context to see that the complaint of the Pharisees and scribes against Jesus is: *God cannot be like "this one"...* It is reminiscent of Jonah who doesn't want God to be like he is.
- 2/ We haven't taken our cue from the structure of vv. 11-32: a/ Jesus' introductory phrase in v. 15 *a certain man*: the focus is on the man and what he is like more than it is on the sons. b/ from the greatest amount of dialogue which is with the older son (we'll say more about this in our conclusion), c/ from where the parable ends: the focus is again on the father and what his heart is like.

Luke 15:1 Like Father, Like Son

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.

A foundational reason many Christians and churches are less than happy is they have no one to party over because they are not concerned first and foremost with what most concerns the Father. If we've lost our joy in being found, and don't long to see others found, we will lose our heart to labor hard in seeking and searching. The glory of God shines brightest as we live in the cross of his Son.

Some verses relating to Like Father, Like Son:

Ezekiel 34:11-19; Luke 19:10 *For the son of man came to seek and save the lost.*

John 8:42-44: *If God were your Father, you would love me....You are of your father the devil....*

John 12:48-50 *What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.*

John 14:1-9 *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Faithful shepherds/disciples rejoice and celebrate when other lost ones are found! (1 John 1:1-3):

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ **And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**