



SEEK THE

Luke 15:1-2, *Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."*

- ✳ **The Pharisees looked down on sinners** while Jesus looked for them.
- ✳ **Walter Wink** | "Holiness ... was not something to be protected; rather it was God's transforming power. God's holiness cannot be harmed; it can only prevail."
- ✳ **Jesus welcomes sinners and dines with them** because He does not fear being corrupted by them but seeks to transmit blessing on them.

Luke 15:3-4, *So he told them this parable: "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?"*

- ✳ **The Shepherd** | Jesus.
- ✳ **The Sheep** | Lost people; those who have wandered away from God.

Isaiah 53:6a, *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way.*

Luke 15:5-7, *And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 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." 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.*

- ✳ **I Tell You** | Jesus connects the earthly story to a heavenly one. In the same way that a recovered sheep is an occasion for communal joy, a lost sinner who has been found should inspire communal joy, not grumbling and complaining.

Luke 15:8-10, *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? 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." Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

- ✳ **Silver Coins** | drachmas: a silver Greek coin equated with the Roman denarius; a laborer's day wage.
- ✳ **These coins may have been the sum total** of her savings or emergency fund.
- ✳ **The Woman** | Jesus.
- ✳ **The lost coin** | Us.

RESPOND &

Luke 15:10, *Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

- ✳ **Repent** | metaneo: to think differently, a change of mind leading to a change of behavior.

Romans 2:4, *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

- ✳ **The characteristic feature of these two parables** is not so much joy over the repentant sinner as the Divine love that goes out to seek the sinner before he repents.
- ✳ **For Jesus, grace is the first thing**, and repentance comes as a response to grace.

THREE ASPECTS OF REPENTANCE

1. C _____

- ✳ **Confess** | "to say the same thing"; to agree with God about your sin.

2. C _____

- ✳ **You don't just agree intellectually with God about your sin**; it grieves you; you feel the weight of your sin.

3. C _____

- ✳ **By God's grace you start to change your way of thinking**, which, in turn, changes the way you live.

ADOPT A

Luke 15:6b-7, *Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." 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.*

- ✳ **God is filled with joy** when a lost sinner is found and repents.

Luke 15:9-10, *And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin." Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

- ✳ **Joy Before The Angels** | normally angels rejoice before God, but when a sinner is found and repents, it is God who rejoices before the angels.
- ✳ **In these parables, the characters experienced so much joy** they had to invite others into it.

BEING INTENTIONAL	1	LIST your oikos, those 8-15 people with whom you have developed, are developing, or maybe should develop relational equity.
	2	PRAY daily for your oikos, that each would sense God's presence in their lives and be open to His love.
	3	INVEST in your oikos. Watch for appropriate ways to be God's instrument, as He calls them to Himself and transforms their lives.
	4	INVITE them to church or into other faith conversations regularly and thoughtfully, as God opens doors of opportunity.
	5	PREPARE to become a better example of faith in Christ and a more effective witness of His grace, as you continue to grow in your own relationship with Him.
PRE-CHRISTIANS Those who have not yet placed their faith in Jesus		
	1. _____	
	2. _____	
	3. _____	
	4. _____	
PRODIGALS Believers who are not actively pursuing their faith		
	5. _____	
	6. _____	
	7. _____	
	8. _____	
PURPOSEFULS Believers who actively pursue their faith		
	9. _____	
	10. _____	
	11. _____	
	12. _____	
POTENTIALS Those who seem to be moving closer to my life's front row more often than in the past		
	13. _____	
	14. _____	
	15. _____	