

2017: Week 23Sunday, June 4th 2017*"God's Grace and Our Repentance"***Luke 15:17–20**

¹⁷ But when he came to his senses, he said... ¹⁸ 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, ***I have sinned*** against heaven, and in your sight. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son...' ²⁰ So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him ***and felt compassion for him***, and ran and embraced him and kissed him" (NASB)¹.

On Sunday John preached from **Luke 15**, one of the most beautiful passages in all of Scripture. In this passage Jesus teaches a parable consisting of three parts. Within this parable, Jesus brings to our attention the **compassion** of God as well as God's desire for His people to come to **repentance**. Our God is a seeking God. He seeks us out—praise the Lord! He also loves us too much to leave us unchanged. When we sin, He wants us to view sin in the same way that He does— that sin is utterly wrong and deserving of judgment. Repentance involves a change within our minds, particularly in the way we view our own sin. Repentance allows us to recognize our problem, but it also should lead us to look to God for the solution. Repentance leads to faith, and faith in the Lord allows us to receive many benefits of His grace.

1. "THE TEXT"**READ Luke 15**

- What is the context in which Jesus is presenting this parable? (see **15:1–3**) Why is this important in regards to understanding the lessons from the parable?
- Within the first section of the parable (**15:4–7**), we observe a shepherd who has many sheep but is very concerned about the one sheep that is lost. When he finds that lost sheep, he rejoices and celebrates with his friends. What do you think Jesus is trying to teach through this part of the parable?
- Much like the first section, the second section of this parable (**15:8–10**) exhibits the joy of an owner who finds something of hers which was lost. In both of these first two sections, Jesus declares that there is joy in heaven when a sinner "repents" (**15:7** and **15:10**). How "repentance" related to the idea of the lost becoming found?
- In the final section of this parable (**15:11–32**), Jesus portrays compassion and repentance with a father and his sons. At what point in this section of the parable can you witness repentance taking place. At what point can you witness compassion occurring?

2. "YOU"

- **Luke 15** is a wonderful illustration of God's compassion for us, specifically the grace that He bestows upon us *when we don't deserve it*. He seeks us out much like the shepherd went after his lost sheep (part 1), or like the woman who searched for her lost coin (part 2), or like the father who was looking off into the distance for his son (part 3). Have you ever considered that the Lord pursued you before you pursued Him? Is He still pursuing you?
- Why is saving repentance necessary before saving faith can occur? (hint: think about the relationship between problem and solution).
- Why might the Lord expect ongoing repentance in the life of a believer, even after one has already demonstrated a saving repentance that lead to saving faith?

3. "REMEMBER"

- **1 John 4:10** "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
- **Ephesians 1:5** "(God) predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for loving and pursuing me, and thank You for still loving and pursuing me! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

¹ All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)**.