

The Picture of a Gracious God: Luke 15

Our study of grace and forgiveness takes us to the legendary fifteenth chapter of Luke. This is the grandest chapter in Luke and one of the finest chapters in all the Bible.

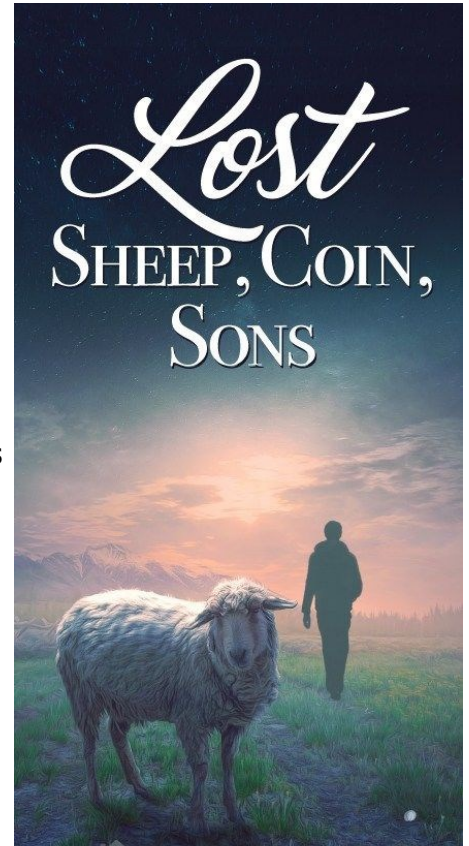
A. The chapter begins with the Pharisees complaining about who Jesus was associating with (1-2)

1. Jesus answers with a series of parables (rather than seeing this as three distinct and different parables...one long parable with four parts: lost sheep, lost coin, lost sons)

And He told them this parable, saying... (3)

Increasing Significance as the Parable Develops

1. M _____: out in the field...in the house...in the family
2. V _____ of what was lost: one sheep out of 100; one coin out of ten; one son out of two
3. S _____ of problem: sheep out of sight, coin misplaced, son dead
4. Level of _____ increases: joy in Heaven (7); presence of the angels of God (10); overwhelming joy of the Father himself (20)



Seeing How These Items Became Lost:

Sheep:
Coin:
Son:

The word "prodigal" is not used in this text. What does it mean?

B. The focus of this parable is not the lost, but the God who saves:

- God who loves and is _____ (20)
 - God who does not _____
 - the God who _____
 - the God who _____ rightness (23, 24, 29)
- Joy is sprinkled throughout these stories (6, 9, 32)

- In the lost sheep, God is: _____
- The lost sheep is laid upon the _____ of the shepherd (5)
- In the lost coin, God is: _____
- A _____ is lit and the house is _____ and a _____ search is made (8)
- In the prodigal, God is: _____
- There are 32 references to the father in 22 verses

C. What is the meaning of the prodigal's gifts:

Ring:
Robe:
Sandals:
Feast:

What was the older brother's problem?

What lessons did the prodigal learn?

How is the older brother different from the father?
What is this showing?

What did the prodigal remember about his father?

How does this parable answer the Pharisee's charge against Jesus?

What picture of God has Luke drawn for us?