

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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The Father's Heart: The Gracious Pursuit of the Lost Luke 15:1-10

In response to the hardened hearts of religious rulers, Jesus reveals the gracious heart of the Father.

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

Parable 1: The sacrificial shepherd who willingly suffers to secure his sheep

Luke 15:3 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.

Parable 2: The woman who purposefully and thoroughly seeks the lost coin

Luke 15:8 "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."

Notice the result of the lost being found: Heavenly joy!

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

The heart of the Father, as evidenced by the Son, informs how we are to live and love.

1. Remember Jesus' mission.

***Luke 4:17** And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, **18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **20** And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

2. We have been called to that same mission.

***Luke 9:23** And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."*

Reflection/Discussion

1. Reflect on God's pursuit of you. How did you come to trust Jesus? Does your life reflect a proper gratitude for his grace and kindness?
2. What hurdles do you face in serving the mission of Jesus – to love sinners (political bias, economic prejudice, self-serving pursuits, etc.)? What patterns can you develop in your life in order to mature away from those things?
3. Re-read both parables (Luke 15:3-10). How does the reality of heavenly rejoicing over repentance motivate you to reach out to the lost?

SONGS

"STAND IN YOUR LOVE"

"GREAT ARE YOU LORD"

"ALWAYS GOOD"

"BLESSED ASSURANCE"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

BUDGET

GIVING through 12/31: \$ 127,599.03
(2023 Year-End)

2023 GIVING: \$1,918,104.10
2023 GENERAL NEED: \$1,923,220.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
(Last Entry 01/03) \$ 116,938.74

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