

# LUKE Lesson 40

## Christ Seeks Sinners; (Chapter 15:1-10)

8 March 2019

In Luke chapter 15, Jesus spoke three parables in response to those who criticized the fact that He received sinners and spent time with them (vs 2). The parable of the Good Shepherd, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son are all related to the same subject; the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). That Christ receiveth sinners speaks of the Grace of God. Even if you receive Him (John 1:12), still, He must receive you, or you'll not be saved.

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### THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (VS 3-7)

3-4 **He Sought:** a good shepherd with 100 sheep will leave 99 in the wilderness (the world) to seek out one lost sheep. While in the wilderness, the 99 must stay close enough to hear the word of the Shepherd (fellowship through His word) or they'll succumb to the wilderness (be influenced by the world).

Jesus was trying to show His accusers that seeking lost men (spiritual) was more important than seeking lost sheep (material), which any normal man would do. But those religious leaders cared more for sheep than they did for men.

**Application:** do you spend as much time and effort seeking lost men and women (witnessing) as you spend on your own material welfare? How much effort do you spend on spiritual (eternal) things?

**The value of one sheep:** the shepherd didn't seek the lost sheep because of its monetary value (He was rich; He still had 99 more). He sought the sheep because He cared about it. Don't let the devil convince you that any particular soul isn't worth your trouble. Have compassion for the lost.

**Perseverance:** The good shepherd's goal was to find the lost sheep no matter how long it took (vs 4). Giving up was not an option. How often do we get discouraged and give up witnessing, when we ought to keep searching for lost souls?

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**Vs 5 He Found:** he didn't scold or punish the sheep for getting himself lost. He didn't try to get the sheep to jump up in his arms (works). He stooped down to where that sheep was and picked him up, rejoicing.

**Application:** when we go witnessing, we need to go down to where the lost are (in the depths of various sins), not to condemn or shame or correct them, but to show some kindness and try to uplift them out of their lost condition.

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**Vs 6 He Rejoiced:** first he rejoiced alone (vs 5), and then with his friends and neighbors (vs 6).

**Application:** do you get more excited about material blessings (riches, good fortune, etc.) than you do when you see a lost soul get saved? When you hear reports of somebody's salvation, are you skeptical? Do you rejoice, or do you murmur? Conversely, we ought to grieve over lost sinners who remain unrepentant.

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**Vs 7 Joy in Heaven:** The fact that God and the angels (vs 10) rejoice when a sinner repents and gets saved, ought to encourage you to do whatever you can to seek out the lost. There may not be very much fanfare down here on earth when a person gets saved, but it causes great rejoicing in Heaven among those who know what eternity is all about.

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### **THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN (VS 8-10)**

**Vs 8 Ten Pieces of Silver:** the loss of one silver coin out of ten was not a great financial loss. There was a different kind of value to that coin that most people aren't aware of. —Ten silver coins joined together symbolized an unbroken love relationship between a husband and a wife for as long as they lived. It would cause terrible grief and anguish of heart if a woman were to lose one of those coins.

It grieves the Lord and breaks His heart when one soul is lost. He does not rest until He can restore what was broken and lost.

To find what is lost will require a light and some cleaning on the part of the seeker. —A lost coin cannot help to find its own way back. Likewise, a lost sinner must be sought diligently. Dirty habits and associations are swept away by the Lord as He seeks you out. After that, He'll shine a light by sending someone your way with the word of God so He can search your heart and find you out.

**Priorities:** the woman stopped everything she was doing to search for that coin. It was most important.

Jesus Christ holds this universe together, and yet He stopped and laid His life aside for 33 ½ years—to get His coin back.

Lord help us to understand the importance of an eternal soul.

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