

THE GREATEST STORYTELLER
Exploring the Life-Changing Stories of Jesus
Lesson #2 – Lost and Found

TEXT: Luke 15:1-32

Being lost is a frightening experience. Have you ever been lost? No doubt Jesus knew His listeners could also relate to stories about being lost. So in Luke 15 he told 3 parables about 3 lost things. And Luke tells us why Jesus shared those stories. (READ Luke 15:1-2).

So Jesus tells these three parables for two reasons:

- To shame and silence His Critics.

- To show us how much His Father God loves Loves
Lost people.

I. THE LOST SHEEP (Luke 15:3-7)

That lost sheep Knew it was Lost, but it couldn't Find its way back home.

Likewise some people are lost due to their own Foolishness of others.

II. THE LOST COIN (Luke 15:8-10)

That lost coin Didn't know it was Lost, nor could it Find its way back home.

Likewise some people are lost due to the Carelessness of others.

III. THE LOST SON (Luke 15:11-32)

That lost boy knew he was Lost, and he knew how to Find his way back home.

Likewise some people are lost due to their Rebelliousness of others.

Now why would a father do that? Why didn't he demand retribution from his son? Why didn't he make him a servant to teach him a lesson? Why didn't he follow Jewish law and stone him to death?

LESSONS FROM THE MASTER

Lesson #1: God Compassionately Recognizes _____ our Lost Condition.
(READ Hebrews 4:14-16)

Lesson #2: God Diligently Searches _____ for Us when we are Lost.
(READ Matthew 18:14)

Lesson #3: God Joyfully Celebrates _____ over our Return.
(READ Luke 15:7, 10, 24)

EPILOGUE

Although this parable is not an allegory, Jesus apparently uses His story to teach certain truths. (READ Luke 15:25-32)

1. The father in this story represents God _____, who joyfully receives lost people with His unconditional love and forgiveness.
2. The younger son represents Lost _____ People _____, who admit their sins and return to God with repentant hearts.
3. The older son represents Selfish _____ People _____, who criticize God for caring about the lost.

However, the most important focus of this parable is on the **forgiving father**, who represents our Heavenly Father, who is overjoyed when a sinner repents of his sin.