

Studies in the Life of Christ

NT Survey Lesson 32--Luke 15

Introduction: Luke fifteen has been called the chapter of the lost and found. In it Jesus characterizes the love of God for the sinner. Perhaps there are subtle differences in the state of the lost objects or people in these parables, but all of them affirm the patience grace of God toward sinners and his joy upon their repentance. The last one particularly addresses the self-righteous pride of the Pharisees who would not enter the kingdom themselves and opposed those who did.

Lesson aim: To show the Father's love for sinners and His joy upon their repentance.

The parable of the lost sheep--Luke 15:1-7

1. What kinds of people were coming to hear Jesus speak?
2. What complaint did the Pharisees and scribes have about this? Why do you think they felt this way?
3. What does the shepherd do if a sheep is found missing? What does he do when he finds it?
4. In which does God have greater joy: ninety-nine who are righteous or one who repents?

The parable of the lost coin--Luke 15:8-10

1. What did the woman lose? What did she do about it?
2. What did she do upon finding the lost coin?
3. What is the message of the parable?

The parable of the prodigal son--Luke 15:11-32

1. What request did the prodigal make of his father? What did he do upon receiving it?
2. What happened to the wealth of the younger son? What does the older brother say about this later?

3. What were the consequences of the young man's poor choices?
4. Trace the steps in the prodigal's heart that led him back to his father.
5. How did the father receive the boy who had been gone?
6. What is this part of the parable telling us about God?
7. What was the reaction of the older brother when he heard that the young boy had come home?
8. How did he respond to his father's pleas to join the celebration?
9. What lesson does this part of the parable teach?