

## The Parable of the Lost Sons

Luke 15:1-32

Theme: Jesus helps us understand the nature of grace and why it ought to be received with joy.

### 1) The Occasion for the Parable

A) This man receives sinners. They were jealous of Jesus showing attention to people they felt didn't deserve the attention of the "\_\_\_\_\_".

### 2) The Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin

A) Two attitudes to \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3) The Lost Sons

A) *The Bad Son*: The secular sinner who \_\_\_\_\_.

- A heinous \_\_\_\_\_ vv.12-14
- A broken \_\_\_\_\_ v.16
- A \_\_\_\_\_ repentance: "I am no longer worthy" v.19
- The fathers \_\_\_\_\_: "Let us celebrate" v.23

B) *The Good Son*: The religious sinner who doesn't see a need to repent...

- \_\_\_\_\_ about grace. "You never gave me" v.29
- \_\_\_\_\_ from son and father "This son of yours" v.30

*There are two ways we try to be our own Saviour and Lord. One is by breaking all moral laws and setting our own course, and the other is by keeping all the moral laws and thus thinking God owes you. - Timothy Keller*

### 4) The Prodigal Father

Answers: seriously godly, grace, repents, sin, life, sincere, response, Resentment, Isolation

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## Small Group Questions

### RELATE

How do you feel when others get what you think you deserve?

### REFLECT

1. The Pharisees would have despised shepherds as lower class and “unclean”. How would Jesus words in v.4,” What man of you...” been offensive to the Pharisees? Why do you think Jesus would poke them this way?
2. In v.5&6, how many times does the shepherd rejoice? What is the significance of the rejoicing in each case?
3. How is the shepherd carrying the burden of the lost sheep and restoring it to the fold an emblem of Jesus’ journey to the Cross?
4. How is the value of what is lost intensified from the first parable to the third?
5. Did the father prefer one son over another? How does vv. 20 and 28 remind us the father attitude to both sons was the same?
6. How could the Father in this parable be considered as “prodigal”? What does this tell us about the grace of God?
7. What is it about the grace of God to sinners that tends to make us resentful? Think in terms of God forgiving Hitler or a sex trafficker for example.

How does resentment hijack our joy?

### RESPOND

If thankfulness and joy come from faith, how can we rediscover them if we have fallen into the self-righteous resentment of the older brother?

How do you see yourself, as Rembrandt did, in both the older and younger brother? What is the solution in each case?

Think about Keller’s statement at the end of your notes. Are you trying to achieve salvation for yourself by either of these means?

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