

# Lost & Found

## Luke 15:1-3 (NKJV)

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

### Illustration: Have you ever given a defense for yourself?

Growing up, I was never the brightest student. And I'd always get low marks. And everyone knew this (ask my friends & family). But for some reason, I would do really well in English. And in my 12th, I wrote one of my best essays. She called me into her room and asked me, where did I steal this from, because it was so good, she couldn't believe it. And I found myself the next half an hour, explaining to this teacher, this is my story. I had to present my defense of the essay that I wrote.

And it got me thinking, that there are times in our life, where we need to make a defense of where we stand.

### And that is why we've landed on Luke 15.

As Jesus began his public ministry, we see time and time again, He was ridiculed; He was persecuted; He was criticized, He would get accusations of all kinds. WHY? Because He was so counter cultural to the Jews. Jesus is seen hanging out with sinners, tax collectors, fishermen, touching lepers, healing the sick... The Jewish folks & especially the Pharisees & scribes were like what is this guy up to!

Can you imagine if they would've had Twitter, or if they would've had Instagram when Jesus was hanging out in Jerusalem? BREAKING NEWS, Jesus is seen hanging out with tax collectors, sinners & prostitutes.

And everywhere He goes people are criticizing Him, people are asking Him why is He doing what He's doing, and most the time He just stays quiet about it until we come to this moment in Luke 15.

Luke 15 is an amazing moment, because most theologians would say that in Luke 15, this is Jesus' defense to His ministry.

And in Luke 15, Jesus is going to tell us WHY He has come.

That day He's got a big crowd of people around Him. He's got the sinners & tax collectors on one side and Pharisees on the other side. And you can eavesdrop to the pharasees and scribes asking the question: WHY is Jesus seen hanging out with sinners?

Jesus goes, it's pretty simple. Let me tell you some parables aka some stories. Here's what He says.

## Lost Sheep

- Jesus talks about a shepherd having 100 sheep
- 1 sheep goes missing
- He leaves the 99 and pursues the 1 sheep
- Think of the math in this equation, 99 is way more bigger and valuable than 1 right?
- But He decides to find the lost sheep
- He leaves the 99 to go after the 1
- Also, let's get the characters in motion.
- The shepherd is Jesus, the sheep is us. Sheep are peculiar, because they can't really see that well, but they have an amazing hearing sense.
- Which means we walk by faith & not by sight. And faith comes by hearing the word of God.
- Young people, get a word from God and hold on to it!
- Once He finds the sheep, He comes back to throw a party with his friends
- This is essentially a celebration

**Why did Jesus come, it's because He is obsessed with LOST THINGS! What was once lost, is now found.**

## Lost coin

- Jesus in the 2nd story, talks about the woman who has 10 coins
- She finds 1 coin missing
- She turns the house upside down
- Why? Because the coin has value
- I don't know about what you think about yourself or others, but God finds value in you
- Have you lost something valuable in your life? Imagine what that felt like

(Wedding ring illustration)

- Bible tells us we all are imprinted by God's image
- Each one of us are valuable to God
- He will search for you, because He values you!

**Why did Jesus come, it's because He is obsessed with LOST THINGS! What was once lost, is now found.**

## Lost Sons

- Famously called the prodigal son, we gave that name btw
- It's actually about 2 sons
- The younger son asks the father for his inheritance early
- He goes wild and waywardly spends all of the inheritance
- And suddenly he finds himself lost
- Looking for a job in a strange land, and all he can find is feeding pigs.
- It gets worse, while he's on his job. He thinks why don't I have a quick bite.
- This is where we find him.
- And in that moment, he thinks I'm gonna go back to my Dad's house, but as a servant!
- He prepares a speech on his way...
- The Dad sees him from afar, and hugs him
- The son tries to get his speech out, I'm no longer worthy to be your son...
- But Dad tells his servants get the best robe, jewellery, kill the fattened calf. We're gonna party.
- There's a party!

## Transition

I want you to imagine this scene with me. Picture how illogical the father is in this situation. How long was this guy back, and there's a celebration? Are you serious?

Who is this guy. Is he a war hero? Is he a olympics winner. NO, he's a screw-up. If I was the father, I would have delt with him differently.

But not this Father...

Then, the scene changes to the older son

- This guy can hear music & dancing (what kind of party was that)
- Notice the posture of the father, it's the same
- He leaves the party, to talk to his older son (because this son was lost in his Father's house)
- And he says, you've always been here for me
- But now we've gotta celebrate your brother.

Because what was lost is now found.

**Why did Jesus come, it's because He is obsessed with LOST THINGS! What was once lost, is now found.**

**That's His mission!**

**Luke 19:10** - For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

This is the Jesus we serve, this is all Jesus is about. He wants to find YOU.