

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 33

Lesson 33 – Three Parables About Things Lost

Background:

This lesson is based on one chapter from the Gospel of Luke. In this chapter Jesus tells three parables about things that are lost but then found.

In these parables we learn a lot about the difference between God's attitude towards sin and the attitude of the Pharisees towards sin. The Pharisees are frustrated that Jesus is eating with sinners, yet Jesus welcomes sinners and even eats with them.

Jesus tells the parables to illustrate God's attitude towards sin and sinners. All three parables relate to things well known in Jewish culture. There is a lost coin, a lost sheep and a lost son.

Scripture Passage:

Read: [Luke 15:1-32](#)

Read the Following Quote:

"When the father placed the younger son's importance as a human being above the values of a civil society, he made a profound statement about human worth. The father's love for his lost son trumped every other concern. All the rules of fairness, reciprocity, reward and punishment were set aside. Redeeming love of the lost son prevailed. All the son's follies of lust, self destruction, short-sightedness, dissipation and the rejection of familial love were forgiven." [David A. Neale](#)

Question:

Define the following vocabulary: follies, lust, self-destruction, short-sightedness, and dissipation.

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Luke 15:1-32](#)

Introductory Verses & Lost Sheep [Luke 15:1-7](#)

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 33

1. Who were the two main types of people gathering around Jesus? What did the Pharisees think? Why would this upset them? Would we be upset if Jesus did the same thing today?

2. Compare what will happen when the shepherd finds his lost sheep, on earth, and in heaven?

3. What is the lesson that Jesus is teaching about sinners and repentance? Few people own sheep today. How might the story be applied in modern times? What does this story tell you about God's attitude towards people?

The Lost Coin, [Luke 15:8-10](#)

1. How many coins does the woman have? What does she do if she loses one? How would you search for a lost coin? Would you search for a lost coin today? What other types of financial products might you search for today? If you lost something with financial value, why would you search for it?

2. What does the woman do when she finds the lost coin? Why is she so happy? Why do angels rejoice?

3. How do you think this story applies to sinners and sin today? What does the story tell us about God's attitude towards sin and sinners?

The Lost Son, Read [Luke 15:11-32](#)

4. How many sons did the man in the story have? What was the younger son's request? Why was this unusual?

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 33

5. When the younger son asked his father for his share of the inheritance the father gave it to him. Would you do that?

6. Where did the younger son go? What did he do? What happened next? (verses 13-16) Do you know anyone who has done anything like that?

7. What did the son do when he came to his senses? What did he expect his father to do? How did the father respond? (verses 17-22)

8. Do the father's actions surprise you? What might you do if your "lost" child returned? How does this part of the story remind you of our heavenly Father?

9. What is the response of the older son? Does this surprise you? How would you respond if your "lost" sibling returned? Is the father's response reasonable? Is I the father fair? What does this story tell you what Jesus thinks about sin and sinners. What does it tell you about God's relationship with us?

For Discussion:

How do you think the teachers of the law might have responded to these three parables? Are we, as "religious" people guilty of the same kind of thinking as the religious leaders of Jesus day? What can we do to change our way of thinking? If you could summarize Jesus teaching in this chapter in one or two sentences, what might you say?

Suggested Prayer: *Heavenly Father, help us to be aware of the foolish things we ask for and repent of our sinfulness. Teach us to be like the father in this story. Help us to avoid the wickedness of the older son and reject Pharisaical thinking. We long to be like Jesus so change us into His likeness. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

For Further Reading:

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 33

Table of Contents:

Lesson 1	Introduction to Series: Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-8
Lesson 2	The Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist: Luke 1:5-25;57-80
Lesson 3	The Announcements to Joseph and Mary: Luke 1:26-38
Lesson 4	The Birth of Jesus: Luke 1:1-20
Lesson 5	The Ambassador; Jesus' Baptism: Mark 1:1, Luke 3:1-2; Mt 3:7-10
Lesson 6	The First Disciples; The First Miracle: John 1:35- 2:11
Lesson 7	Jesus accepted in Judea: Temple and Nicodemus: John 2:13-3:21
Lesson 8	Jesus accepted in Samaria: John 4:5-42
Lesson 9	Christ's Authority: To Preach; Over Disease; Over Nature: Luke 4:16-30; John 4:46-54; Luke 5:1-11
Lesson 10	Christ's Authority: Over Demons; Over Sickness; To Forgive Luke 4:31-37; Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 2:1-12
Lesson 11	Christ's Authority: Over Men; Over Tradition; Over the Sabbath: Mark 2:13-17; Matthew 9:14-17; Luke 6:1-5
Lesson 12	The Commissioning of the Disciples (Commissioning and Cost) Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Luke 14:25-35
Lesson 13	The Sermon on the Mount Part One: Matthew 5:1-16
Lesson 14	The Sermon on the Mount Part Two: Matthew 5:17-7:6
Lesson 15	The Sermon on the Mount Part Three: Matthew 7:7-7:29
Lesson 16	Resistance by Some: Matthew 11:20-12:14
Lesson 17	Reception by a Sinner: Luke 7:36-50
Lesson 18	Rejection by Pharisees and Family: Mark 3:20-35
Lesson 19	Post Rejection Instructions: Matthew 13:1-53
Lesson 20	Feeding of the 5,000 & The Storm: Mark 6:30-52
Lesson 21	Instructions About The Bread of Life: John 6:22-71
Lesson 22	Peter's Confession; The Transfiguration; Matt 16:13-21; 17:1-8
Lesson 23	On the Way to Jerusalem (Luke 9:43-62)
Lesson 24	Jesus' Brothers and the Conflict at the Feast of Tabernacles
Lesson 25	Conflict over the Law and Conflict over Light
Lesson 26	Conflict over Jesus' Person
Lesson 27	Conflict Over the Healing of the Blind Man
Lesson 28	The Witness of the 72 & The Question of Eternal Life (Luke 10:1-37)
Lesson 29	Jesus' Friends; Prayer, Healing a Mute Man, Pharisaic Rituals (Luke 10:38-11:36)
Lesson 30	Hypocrisy, Covetousness, Watchfulness, Faithfulness; Jesus' Coming
Lesson 31	Signs of the Times, Repentance, Crippled Woman, Mustard Seed (Luke 12:54 - 13:21)
Lesson 32	Further Conflict (John 10:40-42; Luke 13:22-35 - 14:1-24)
Lesson 33	Three Parables (Luke 15)