

CHAPTER SUMMARY FORM

Chapter

Read 5 times: Luke 15 X (check when done)

Caption (title)

Lost & Found

Contents

Describe the Scene

The Pharisees complain that Jesus associated with sinners prompts him to tell three stories.

List with Outline

1. Parable of the Lost Sheep (v. 4-7)
Sheep wanders off. Shepherd searches for sheep. Shepherd finds sheep. Shepherd rejoices.
2. Parable of Lost Coin (v. 8-10)
Woman loses coin (carelessly). Woman searches for coin. Woman finds coin. Woman rejoices.
3. Parable of Lost Son (v. 11-32)
Son chooses to leave. Son chooses to return home. Father rejoices. Brother complains. Father confronts brother.

Chief People

Jesus versus the Pharisees – the whole chapter is about a difference in perspective between these two people

Parable 1

The Shepherd

Parable 2

The Woman

Parable 3

The Father
The Youngest Son
The Oldest Son

Choice Verse

But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

Luke 15:32

Crucial Words

- **Lost** – 5 times (vv. 4,5,9,24,32)
- **Found** – 6 times (vv. 5-6,9,24,32)
- **Rejoice** or **Celebrate** - 7 times (vv. 5,7,9,10,22,24,32)

Challenges

(Difficulties I need to study)

What does this verse mean – “ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent”?

Cross-references

Lost Sheep

- Psalm 23 – The Lord’s my Shepherd
- Psalm 119:176 – I have strayed like a sheep
- John 10:1-18 – I AM the Good Shepherd
- Matthew 18:12-14 – Parable of Lost Sheep

Lost Coin

(none found)

Lost Son

- Genesis 41:42 – ring of authority
- Zechariah 3:4 – robe of position
- Ephesians 2:1 – Dead
- Romans 6:4 – new life

Christ Seen

Lost Sheep – Jesus the good shepherd searches for his lost sheep

Lost Son – God the Father watches for us to return home so that he can return us to our position

Lost Coin – The Holy Spirit, our Rightful Owner, finds us and restores us

Central Lesson(s)

These three parables are about perception. There is a distinct contrast, especially evident in the *Lost Son*, between the way the God-head views lost people and the way the that man (especially the self-righteous) view lost people.

Jesus illustrates the godly attitude for us to understand. The Pharisees had become exclusive for fear of becoming “dirty by association” that they had forgotten you have to put your hands in the dishwater if you want to clean the plates.

Note the circumstances of each of the lost

1. Clueless Sheep Wanders Away
2. Carelessness of Woman
3. Choice of the Son

HOWEVER

All 3 got the same treatment (REJOICING) upon their return.

In-Class Example

The younger brother started his journey by saying “Give Me” ... but returned to his father saying “Make Me.”

Even though the younger son “gathered all he had” (demonstrating he had no intention of ever returning home), the father endowed his son with a ring, robe, and sandals, all symbols that designate the son’s position. He returned the son to the position of a son – not a slave.

Attitudes of the Older Brother (*Wrong Perspective*)

- Anger – v. 28
- Childish – v. 28
- Jealousy – v. 29-30
- Bitterness – v. 29-30
- Grumbling – v. 29-30
- Complaining – v. 30
- Self-piety – v. 29
- Self-righteous – v. 29
- Judgmental – v. 30
- Unaccepting – v. 30
- Hatred – v. 28-30
- Resentment – v. 28-30

Principles Taught:

1. ALL people are VALUABLE to God (Sheep, it was only 1 of 100...still had value).
2. No method is too extreme to finding the Lost (Note the extremes the woman went to)
3. It is never a lost cause (Even though the son completely turned from his family...his father still watched)
4. A search reveals your VALUES (All three searched because the things they had lost were valuable)
5. Searches are always COSTLY (It takes time and effort, and sacrifice – the shepherd left the other 99, the woman spent a day cleaning, the father alienated the older son)
6. LOVE pays whatever the search COSTS (Each was willing to pay the price though, because of their love)
7. A search becomes your consuming PRIORITY (This is most clear in the lost coin)
8. A search is always LOST-CENTERED, never SEARCHER-CENTERED
9. A search is URGENT because the lost are in DANGER (the shepherd had to leave immediately)
10. Being lost can be FUN (The son had fun first)
11. NO ONE gets lost on PURPOSE (even though the son chose to leave, he didn’t choose to get lost...he just thought he knew better)
12. It is EASY to get lost (all three things were lost very easily)
13. You can be lost and NOT KNOW it (the coin and perhaps the sheep, may not have known they were lost)
14. You cannot FORCE people to ADMIT that they are lost (The father could’ve tried to follow the son instead of waiting, but he knew that the son had to come to the realization first)
15. ADMITTING you are lost is the FIRST step in the RIGHT DIRECTION. (The son started his own trek home)
16. Always CELEBRATE when the lost are found.

Conclusion

(Personal Application)

To be more like Christ, I need to ensure that I have the same perspective He does concerning the lost. People are important and are entitled to being found.

How one reacts towards the lost is a thermometer of his heart. The more accepting and joyful I am when lost people are found, the more like Jesus I am. I must seek out the lost and help them return home.

In each of the three parables a concrete effort was made to recover what was lost. I have a few friends who are lost without Christ. I need to develop specific witnessing plans for them with the Good news. I will start by sharing my faith with my friend Lee this week.