

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LOST

Lesson 4.

OBJECTIVE: To learn God willingness to save sinners, and to incorporate this attitude into ourselves.

PARABLES:

- A. *The Parable of the Lost Sheep* Luke 15:1-7 [See also Matt.18:12-14]
- B. *The Parable of the Lost Coin* Luke 15:8-10
- C. *The Parable of the Lost Son* Luke 15:11-32

I. THE SETTING:

- A. What attitude was Jesus responding to by telling these parables? What murmuring prompted Jesus?

- 1. Who were the publicans?

- 2. How were they thought of by their Jewish countrymen?

- B. What was Jesus' purpose in associating with sinners?

II. THE CENTRAL TEACHING: What can be stated as the sum of the teaching of all three of these parables?

III. UNDERSTANDING THE PARABLES:

A. That which was lost:

1. What was the cause of the things being lost?

a) the Sheep?

b) the Coin?

c) the Son?

2. What is the corresponding spiritual teaching for us today? _____

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3. What was the **value** of that which was lost? [approximate, or in your opinion...]:

a) One sheep out of 100?

b) One coin [look up "drachma" in a Bible dictionary]? _____

c) One son?

[Some of these things may have been of more value to some people than to others. To whom were they of

most value?] _____

[So what do you think the lesson is that Jesus is giving here?] _____

B. Recovering the Lost:

1. In two of these parables, search was diligently made for the lost. Why not in the third?

2. In all three parables, when that which was lost was recovered, what was the reaction of the "owner"?

3. In the third parable, we read of a person lost and recovered. What steps took place in his recovery?
vs. 17

vs. 18

vs. 20

vs. 21

vs. 22-24 _____ [On
the father's part]

C. The Other Son ... vss. 25-32.

1. Considering the setting of these parables, who was then acting like this other son?

Who was acting like the father?

2. What do we do [or neglect to do] which puts us into this same category as the other son?

3. What does the elder brother call the one who had returned [verse 30]? _____

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4. What had the servants and his father called him [vss. 27, 32]? _____

CONCLUSION

God's willingness to save sinners should be unquestioned in our minds! But ***the fact of salvation*** must be impressed upon us, as on that prodigal son, as we "come to ourselves" and desire to make a change to better our "spiritual" circumstances, that ***the final outcome rests on us!*** GOD IS WILLING! **BUT WE MUST BE WILLING, TOO!**