

A Heart For The Lost

Luke 15:1-10 ▪ April 19, 2026 ▪ Jackson Winkelman

Seek _____.

Welcome _____.

Celebrate _____.

Luke 15:1-10

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: When it comes to lost possessions, how do you decide whether something is “worth the effort” to search for?

Read & Discuss: Luke 15:1-10

1. The Pharisees are bothered that Jesus “receives sinners and eats with them” (v. 2). Why would that be such a big deal to them? What assumptions about God might lead someone to react the way the Pharisees do? Where do you see similar attitudes show up in the church today?
2. Jesus responds to the indignation of the Pharisees with a parable about a shepherd going after one lost sheep (vv. 3–4). What might be surprising about the shepherd’s decision to leave the ninety-nine and go after one? Why do you think Jesus highlights the value of the one instead of focusing on the ninety-nine? How might the Pharisees have reacted to this story?
3. Jesus then tells a related parable about a lost coin (vv.8–9). What details stand out about the way the woman searches for the coin? How do the woman’s actions reveal her priorities? What similarities or differences do you notice between this story and the parable of the lost sheep?
4. Looking at both stories together, what do they reveal about God’s character and His attitude toward people who are far from Him? How does this picture of God encourage you personally?
5. In verse 7 Jesus describes “one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” Each parable ends with a celebration. What do you think Jesus wants us to understand about the appropriate response to repentance? Why emphasize *shared* joy instead of just *personal* joy?
6. How do these stories address the Pharisees’ complaint back in verse 2? What is Jesus trying to correct in their thinking? What helps us cultivate hearts that reflect God’s joy for the lost rather than the Pharisees’ resentment?

Apply: Who is someone in your life that might be “lost” right now? What would it look like this week to reflect God’s heart toward them—through prayer, a conversation, or an intentional act of care?

Pray: Thank God that He pursued you when you were lost. Ask Him to give you His heart for people who are far from Him. Pray for specific people in your life who need to be found. Ask for courage and compassion to move toward them this week.