

Luke 15:1-10

The Parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

15 Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. **2** This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

3 So Jesus told them this story: **4** “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. **6** When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ **7** In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? **9** And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ **10** In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

Personal Bible Study - Luke 15:1-10

Read Luke 15:1-2 - One of the things that makes Jesus (and those who are truly like him) different from other religious people is that he's welcoming to scandalous people, some of whom had done really awful things. Having an ugly past did not exclude someone from friendship with Jesus. By contrast, the Pharisees in this passage behave exactly like so many religious people, rejecting people who do bad things. They aren't interested in leading people who are in truly hard places out of their trouble and into life; they are only interested in their own purity and "holiness."

- When you've encountered religious people, which of these two ways of treating people has been your most common experience? Do you think religious people are mostly like Jesus, or mostly like the Pharisees? Why do you think this would be?
- When you encounter people with a difficult past, how do you respond to them?
- Jesus welcomes people who are sinners, but doesn't join them in evil, self-destructive behavior. He didn't need to protect himself from the temptation to participate with them in sin. How can you imitate Jesus while still being wise about the dangers of sin?

Read Luke 15:3-6 - Jesus tells an incredibly efficient story, with very few details and a lot of impact. These people are all familiar with ancient shepherds, and all of them knew that if someone lost a sheep, they would do exactly what Jesus says. That's because a sheep was a valuable thing financially. It was a major investment of time and energy, and it couldn't easily be replaced. In his culture, Jesus has chosen an obviously valuable thing, and the need to search for it if it were lost was equally obvious.

- Jesus is saying something about the value of people, even people who have gotten themselves spiritually confused, mixed up, and lost. Doing destructive and self-harmful things doesn't alter a person's value. Wandering away from God is awful, but it doesn't change the fact that God sees us as valuable. How does this apply to you?
- Do you think most Christians see the value in the lost? Why do you believe what you believe about this?

Read Luke 15:7 - Jesus makes it clear he was never talking about sheep. He's talking about people. Lost people have value. Jesus knows that every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future, and he wants to rescue the notorious sinner. He says that heaven's perspective is simply different from that of many religious people.

- What's your strategy for seeing people the way God sees people?
- What's your strategy for seeing yourself the way God sees you?

Read Luke 15:8-10 - A woman searching her house for one quarter seems strange, but that's not what's happening in this story. In the ancient world, marriages were arranged. A woman's family would give her a set of coins woven into jewelry as a headdress. Those coins were a significant part of her dowry (a financial package given to the husband who married her), and they made her valuable - a worthwhile catch for a family looking for a good wife for their son. To lose one of these made her less of a desirable wife. It threatened her ability to love and be loved. What Jesus is saying in this parable is that each person is really like that - someone to love and by whom God wants to be loved. God wants a permanent relationship with every single one of us, and less than that is a loss to him. When the lost are found, heaven rejoices!

- Do you think most people who claim to follow Christ treat everyone as if they had this kind of value? What do we need to learn from Jesus here?
- What would it look like if God "found" you today? How would your life be different?

Lucas 15:1-10

Parábola de la oveja perdida y la moneda perdida

15 Muchos recaudadores de impuestos y pecadores se acercaban a Jesús para oírlo, 2 de modo que los fariseos y los maestros de la Ley se pusieron a murmurar: «Este hombre recibe a los pecadores y come con ellos».

3 Él entonces contó esta parábola: 4 «Supongamos que uno de ustedes tiene cien ovejas y pierde una de ellas. ¿No deja las noventa y nueve en el campo y va en busca de la oveja perdida hasta encontrarla? 5 Y cuando la encuentra, lleno de alegría, la carga en los hombros 6 y vuelve a la casa. Al llegar, reúne a sus amigos y vecinos y les dice: “Alégrense conmigo; ya encontré la oveja que se me había perdido”. 7 Les digo que así es también en el cielo: habrá más alegría por un solo pecador que se arrepienta que por noventa y nueve justos que no necesitan arrepentirse.

8 »O supongamos que una mujer tiene diez monedas de plata^[a] y pierde una. ¿No enciende una lámpara, barre la casa y busca con cuidado hasta encontrarla? 9 Y cuando la encuentra, reúne a sus amigas y vecinas y les dice: “Alégrense conmigo; ya encontré la moneda que se me había perdido”. 10 Les digo que así mismo se alegran los ángeles de Dios por un pecador que se arrepiente.

Estudio bíblico personal – Lucas 15:1-10

Lean Lucas 15:1-2 – Jesús es diferente de otras personas religiosas. Él recibe con gusto a personas escandalosas. Algunas habían hecho cosas terribles. Tener un pasado feo no le impedía a nadie ser amigo de Jesús. Los fariseos hacen lo contrario. Rechazan a la gente que hace cosas malas. No les interesa ayudar a las personas en problemas a salir de su dolor. Solo les importa su propia "santidad".

- Cuando has estado con personas religiosas, ¿cuál de estas dos formas de tratar a la gente has visto más? ¿Crees que la mayoría de las personas religiosas son como Jesús, o como los fariseos? ¿Por qué crees eso?
- Cuando conoces a alguien con un pasado difícil, ¿cómo respondes tú?
- Jesús recibe a los pecadores, pero no hace el mal junto con ellos. Él no necesitaba protegerse de la tentación. ¿Cómo puedes imitar a Jesús, siendo sabio sobre los peligros del pecado?

Lean Lucas 15:3-6 – Jesús cuenta una historia corta, pero con mucho significado. Todos conocían a los pastores de esa época. Todos sabían que, si un pastor perdía una oveja, haría justo lo que Jesús describe. Una oveja valía mucho dinero. Costaba tiempo y trabajo criarla. No era fácil de reemplazar. Jesús escoge algo valioso, algo que claramente valía la pena buscar si se perdía.

- Jesús habla del valor de las personas, incluso de las que están confundidas y perdidas espiritualmente. Hacer cosas destructivas no cambia el valor de una persona. Alejarse de Dios es terrible, pero no cambia que Dios nos ve como valiosos. ¿Cómo se aplica esto a ti?
- ¿Crees que la mayoría de los cristianos ven el valor en los que están perdidos? ¿Por qué crees eso?

Lean Lucas 15:7 – Jesús deja claro que no habla de ovejas. Habla de personas. Las personas perdidas tienen valor. Jesús sabe que todo santo tiene un pasado. Sabe que todo pecador tiene un futuro. Él quiere rescatar al peor pecador. Dice que el cielo ve las cosas de forma diferente a como las ven muchas personas religiosas.

- ¿Cuál es tu manera de ver a las personas como Dios las ve?
- ¿Cuál es tu manera de verte a ti mismo como Dios te ve?

Lean Lucas 15:8-10 – Una mujer busca una moneda en su casa. Suena extraño, pero hay más en esta historia. En el mundo antiguo, los matrimonios se arreglaban entre familias. La familia de la mujer le daba un conjunto de monedas, tejidas en un adorno para la cabeza. Esas monedas eran parte de su dote. La dote hacía que la mujer fuera valiosa para casarse. Perder una de esas monedas la hacía menos deseable como esposa. Ponía en riesgo su capacidad de amar y ser amada. Jesús dice que cada persona es así: alguien para amar, y alguien a quien Dios quiere amar. Dios quiere una relación permanente con cada uno de nosotros. Cualquier otra cosa es una pérdida para él. Cuando se encuentra lo perdido, ¡el cielo se alegra!

- ¿Crees que la mayoría de las personas que dicen seguir a Cristo tratan a todos con este tipo de valor? ¿Qué necesitamos aprender de Jesús aquí?
- ¿Cómo sería si Dios te "encontrara" hoy? ¿Cómo cambiaría tu vida?