

## **The Lost Parables**

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Deep down, do you believe God only loves those who are good people, or that He still loves those who make big mistakes and are far away from him?**
- 2. How does your view of God change the way you view yourself? How does it change the way you view others?**
- 3. In what areas of your life do you need to admit your lost-ness and turn part of your life back to Jesus?**
- 4. How does our understanding of God inform our understanding of the church? Does the church exist to meet the needs of the members or to meet the needs of those who are not yet a part of it?**
- 5. Who has God placed in your life who is disconnected from God? Make a plan this week to spend time building that relationship and praying that God would use you to demonstrate His great love for them. (If you can't think of anyone, begin making plans to make friends with people outside of the church)**



# **“The Lost Parables”**

***Thomas Johnson***



**Luke 15:1–3 *English Standard Version***

**Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:**



**Luke 15:4–6 *English Standard Version***

**“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? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 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.’”**



**Luke 15:7 *English Standard Version***

**“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.”**



**Luke 15:8–9 *English Standard Version***

**“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? 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.’”**



**Luke 15:10 *English Standard Version***  
**“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the  
angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**



**Pharisees and scribes believe:**

- God loves those who are good, and immediately judges those who are bad.**





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## **Pharisees and scribe believe:**

- God loves those who are good, and immediately judges those who are bad.**
- Every person has to live up to a certain standard to be accepted by God.**
- The community of faith exists to protect themselves from an unclean world.**



**Jesus' teaches:**

- God does not stop loving those who are lost, but he seeks to recover them.**



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## **Jesus' teaches:**

- God does not stop loving those who are lost, but he seeks to recover them.**
- Every person is lost and needs to repent and be found by God.**
- The community of faith exists to seek the lost and help them find a way back to God.**



**Luke 15:11–12 *English Standard Version***

**And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.”**



**Luke 15:13 *English Standard Version***

**“Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.”**



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**Luke 15:20–24 *English Standard Version***

**“And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.”**



**Luke 15:28–32 *English Standard Version***

**“But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”**



**Luke 5:31–32 *English Standard Version***

**And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”**



**Luke 10:2 *English Standard Version***

**And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”**



**"The Church is the only society that exists for  
the benefit of those who are not its members."  
*Archbishop William Temple***



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