

GOD SEEKS THE SINNER
LUKE 15

SETTING: There had been many _____ and miracles, and many _____ between Jesus and the religious leaders. He is at the point of His ministry where He is going from village to village _____ and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. All along He is contrasting what the Jewish leaders say about what it means to be religious and follow _____ and what God says is _____ religion.

He had recently _____ a man with dropsy at a dinner and He had just finished telling the crowds who had been following Him what it means to be a true disciple.

He gives two parables parables that say slightly different things, but are addressing the same point.

We see this in the parables of the tower and the _____. (14:28-32)

In the first parable Jesus says, "Sit down and consider the cost of following Me." In the second He says, "Sit down and consider whether you can afford to refuse My demands."

He concludes with the parable of the salt. If salt isn't salty...what good is it! Many commentators point to the qualities as being a preservative and its ability to flavor.

Jesus concludes with "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 15:1-3

Describe the crowd.

What does Jesus do?

What we have here is another set of parables that have slightly different things, but are addressing the same point.

He teaches three parables. The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP Luke 15:1-7

Sinners and Tax Collectors

Jewish leaders objected to receiving such people. To eat with them was worse than mere association: it implied welcome and recognition! (Tyndale Commentary on Luke)
Who is Jesus addressing in this parable?

The ninety-nine

The lost sheep

The shepherd

What is the point of the parable?

God seeks the lost and rejoices when they repent. There is more rejoicing in heaven when a sinner _____ than over the ninety-nine who are self-righteous and feel they have no need for repentance.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN Luke 15:8-10

Ten coins

Like the shepherd, she shares her joy when the lost coin is found.

Jewish Law – As a man seeks for a lost coin, so should he seek the Law. There is no rabbinic equivalent to God’s seeking of sinners. (Tyndale’s Commentary on Luke)

Jesus’ point – The angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents!

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. In what ways can we be like the ninety-nine righteous sheep who feel they have no need for repentance?
2. Who would be the “sinners and tax collectors” of our day? Do we sometimes fear association with sinners for fear of what others may think?
3. How can we have the heart of God in seeking the lost? What are some dangers we should be aware of?

MEMORY VERSE 2 Corinthians 5:20

Make a list of those whom we know who do not know the LORD. Let's ask Him to give us His love for the lost and begin praying for two things. 1) That God would save them and bring them into His kingdom 2) What would You have me do?