

## **FINAL STUDY NOTES - LUKE Chapter 15      4/15-16/2025**

### **CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:**

Phil Twente: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) - Previous Audio & notes - [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) - cell 714 425 9221

**NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)  
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live-map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* ([mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com)),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

**MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

One tap mobile; +16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)  
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>  
HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Resurrection Week! Remembering Palm Sunday, Jesus' Triumphal Entry:**

**4/14/25 - Newsmax - Resurrection week message from President Trump and interview of Pastor Jack Hibbs**

**Here is the link!**

**<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/easter-jesus-resurrection/2025/04/13/id/1206749/>**

**Trump's Strong Holy Week Message: Recognize Jesus' Suffering, Redemption**

**By Eric Mack | Sunday, 13 April 2025 02:47 PM EDT**

**President Donald Trump hails "Holy Week, 2025" with a message celebrating Jesus' resurrection and salvation of sins and vowing "to defend the Christian faith" and "religious liberty."**

**"This Holy Week, my administration renews its promise to defend the Christian faith in our schools, military, workplaces, hospitals, and halls of government," Trump wrote in a Palm Sunday statement. "We will never waver in safeguarding the right to religious liberty, upholding the dignity of life, and protecting God in our public square."**

**Trump's full statement:**

*"This Holy Week, Melania and I join in prayer with Christians celebrating the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ — the living Son of God who conquered death, freed us from sin, and unlocked the gates of Heaven for all of humanity.*

*Beginning with Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and culminating in the Paschal Triduum, which begins on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Good Friday, and reaching its pinnacle in the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. This week is a time of reflection for Christians to memorialize Jesus' crucifixion—and to prepare their hearts, minds, and souls for His miraculous Resurrection from the dead.*

*During this sacred week, we acknowledge that the glory of Easter Sunday cannot come without the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross. In His final hours on Earth, Christ willingly endured excruciating pain, torture, and execution on the cross out of a deep and abiding love for all His creation. Through His suffering, we have redemption. Through His death, we are forgiven of our sins. Through His Resurrection, we have hope of eternal life. On Easter morning, the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and light prevails over darkness — signaling that death does not have the final word.*

*This Holy Week, my Administration renews its promise to defend the Christian faith in our schools, military, workplaces, hospitals, and halls of government. We will never waver in safeguarding the right to religious liberty, upholding the dignity of life, and protecting God in our public square.*

*As we focus on Christ's redeeming sacrifice, we look to His love, humility, and obedience — even in life's most difficult and uncertain moments. This week, we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our beloved Nation. We pray that America will remain a beacon of faith, hope, and freedom for the entire world, and we pray to achieve a future that reflects the truth, beauty, and goodness of Christ's eternal kingdom in Heaven.*

*May God bless you and your family during this special time of year and may He continue to bless the United States of America."*

**LUKE – Chapter 15 - Lost! Found! - The Parable of the Lost Sheep - (vs. 1-7); The Parable of the Lost Coin – (vs. 8-10); The Parable of the Lost Son – (vs. 11-32).**

### **The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

**Luk 15:1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.**

- It is interesting that all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Jesus, even after hearing the strong demands of what is required to be a disciple. They are saying, we count the cost, we make a commitment. Who was not scared off? It was the tax collectors and sinners.

**Luk 15:2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."**

- Now They complained because Jesus *receives sinners and eats with them*, whom they viewed as treasonous and as the scum of the Earth. They thought these sinners were not living in accordance with the Law of God, having forfeited any chance of a relationship with God. They were looking for God to judge them, not to forgive and save them!

**Luk 15:3-6 So He spoke this parable to them, saying: [4] "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which 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 neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'**

- Jesus proceeds to correct their misunderstanding of God's nature and attitude toward sinners with a series of three parables: Of the lost sheep; the parable of the lost coin; and the parable of the

Lost Sons. Each of them are dominated by three great words. **Lost! Found! Rejoice!** That is what happens in heaven, related to sinners being saved; lost, found, and rejoice, which we will see, going through them.

- **The first parable is of the lost sheep**, which Jesus spoke to the Jewish religious leaders, not to the crowd. He said, *What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost.* There is the first word – “**lost!**” *Until he finds it?* There is the second word – “**found!**” *And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.* The third word – “**rejoice!**”
- **And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’**
- **It is necessary to understand the culture and the traditions of the Pharisees.** They believed that if they touched a sinner, that they would be unclean; therefore, they could not worship God until they had first gone through a whole bathing process to get rid of the defilement. To eat with a Gentile or a sinner was absolutely unthinkable because in their minds, to eat with someone was equivalent to becoming one with that person. They thought all Gentiles were lost! They were blind to the fact that they themselves were among the lost!
- **Jesus is saying that rather than having that critical, bitter attitude**, the fact that sinners are being found, the lost is being found, you ought to be rejoicing and heaven rejoices! In reality, **your heart is out of harmony with heaven’s heart.**

***Luk 15:7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy (not bitterness, rancor) in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.***

- **Everybody knew the imagery that Jesus was talking about.** All of us have probably lost something that is living like this in the course of our life. But the excitement of it being found! It is something that we all understand. Jesus informs these Jewish religious leaders of the great joy that a shepherd feels in finding a lost sheep, which is but a hint of the joy that is experienced in heaven every single time an individual sinner becomes a Christian! That is something to think about, isn't it?
- **If you ever thought about the fact that at the exact moment that you put your faith in Jesus Christ to be saved, celebration breaks out in heaven!** That is how heaven values a saved soul! Jesus knows firsthand about this heavenly portrayal, something the religious leaders do not know at all. This portrayal of God's joy over the salvation of a sinner would have been mind boggling for the Jewish religious leaders. They thought that God's attitude towards sinners was that if any of them got saved, that all of heaven would put out a collective groan over the fact that heaven is now going to be ruined by the introduction of this kind of a sinner! That is how far out of touch the Jewish leaders were!
- **More joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. You do not have to worry about the sheep there in the fold, they are safe.** It is the one that is out there on the mountainside whose life is in danger that must be sought and found in order to spare its life. That is the one. There is the rejoicing when it is found more than the ninety-nine that are safely in the fold. **There is such rejoicing when one repents and turns to the Lord!**

### ***The Parable of the Lost Coin***

***Luk 15:8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin (drachma – one day's wage), does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?***

- **Continuing the same idea, you have a woman who has ten drachmae**, representing a sizable amount of money. This could represent livelihood or it could also represent something else. Married women usually had a necklace of coins that was worn around the head and the coins were across her forehead, like a wedding ring. They were a sign that she was married.
- **The floors of the houses were of compacted dirt, usually covered** with reeds. There was not much light in the house. They would have to light a candle in order to find something that dropped on the floor. To drop a coin on a floor that was covered with reeds would be sort of like looking for a needle in the haystack. So, you sweep it hoping that it will pick up. The picture this time is a lost coin.
- **A coin has no value because it is lost.** The only value a coin has is when you spend it. It then becomes currency. But when it is lost, it could be an extremely valuable coin but it is of no value when it is lost. She searches diligently until she finds it.

***Luk 15:9 And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'***

- **Rejoice!** Again, the natural response to finding something that is lost is that of rejoicing! The Pharisees were upset because He was receiving sinners and eating with them, He was finding those that were lost. The Pharisees were out of harmony with heaven.

***Luk 15:10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.***

- **The finding of the lost.** The response is joy. The natural response is joy.
- **In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd is obviously Jesus Christ** who went out to find the lost sheep. He said, *(Luke 19:10) for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Also, *(John 10:11) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (Gen 3:8,9) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" The lost sheep is that sinner who had gone astray whom the Lord brings back carrying him, rejoicing that the lost has been found!*
- **In the second picture, this woman who has lost the coin is a type of the Holy Spirit** who is searching. The Shepherd is seeking the lost, the woman is searching for the lost. The Holy Spirit as He searches for those that are lost until they are found! Now the Father in the third parable is featured.
- **How does my joy, my rejoicing over one sinner who repents, compare with that of the joy in the presence of the angels of God?**

### ***The Parable of the Prodigal Son***

***Luk 15:11-12 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. [12] And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.***

- **This boy was not willing to wait until his dad died and for him to inherit his portion.** The older son got two-thirds; the younger son got one third of the inheritance. So, the younger son came and demanded his portion of the inheritance from his father.
- **It was completely lawful for a father in the ancient world to give his inheritance** to his children prior to his death. But no son would ever think of asking for it before the father would die! When Jesus talks about a younger son who goes to a father and wants his inheritance before the father dies, their jaws drop. This is astonishing disrespect! Someone who says I want the money I would get from you when you die. But I do not want to wait till you die to get that money. I want it now! I want what you have, but I do not want you! Really, I do not want to be with you.
- **Then graciously the father divided his livelihood to his sons.** The older son would receive two thirds of the estate and younger son would receive one third. This man was very wealthy. He takes one third of what he has worked all of his life for maybe generations of his family and gives it to this disrespectful younger son that he has.

***Luk 15:13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.***

- **He was living a wildlife.** Now in this case, you see the son has been lost but he is lost by his own deliberate design. He goes out to lose himself in sin. He turns away from the father's love and from the love of the home, deliberately turning his back on that, to go out and just to taste the world and the things of the world, spending his life in wasteful living.
- **If you are listening to this as a Jewish religious leader or as a Jewish person,** you would look at that father, saying this guy has a right to never want anything to do with that son ever again. That son represents the tax collector and the sinner and any and every sinner in the world.

***Luk 15:14-15 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. [15] Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.***

- **What could be more degrading to a Jew than to have to feed swine?**

***Luk 15:16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.***

- **As long as he had money, he was popular guy.** But the minute his money ran out, his friends ran with it. There is no one there to help him. A citizen of that country gave him this job, a rotten job indeed, feeding corn husks to the swine.
- **He would gladly have eaten the husks because he was so hungry.** When you are desperate you will eat almost anything. He went about as low as you can get! Sin had brought him down to the bottom!
- **Sometimes when you see a person on the way down, you wonder how far** do they have to go before they wake up and realize what is happening to them? When are they going to wake up? You can see them as they are going downhill, destroying themselves. You stand by, feeling so helpless because they do not want help.

***Luk 15:17 "But when he came to himself (came to his senses), he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!'***

- **When he finally woke up, as though a veil had been over his eyes** and he was blinded, as sin does blind a person to their true condition. Sin is destructive, destroying everything that is worthwhile. It will drive you from your home, from your loved ones. Then it will desert you, leaving you trying to fill yourself on husks that are fed to the pigs. He came to himself; he looked at himself. His filthy, smelly clothes. Filthy body. He began to remember what it was like at home!
- **He came to himself, to his senses. I am starving to death!** He begins to reassess the quality of life that his sin and his self-will had produced for him, in contrast to the quality of life that he had in relationship with his father. He has a change of mind! He is then determined to repent, which means to have a change of mind that produces a change of action! My dad has hired servants and they have more than enough bread to eat. They have surplus and they are just his hired servants.

***Luk 15:18-19 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, [19] and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired (the lowest) servants."***

- **Put me to work, dad, just as a hired servant.** I know I am not worthy to be a son. The recognition that I have blown it. I have messed up my life. I have taken my inheritance and wasted it. I do not deserve to be called a son but I just would like a job as a hired servant. A hired servant was different, lower than a regular servant, in that they were not permanent, live-in hires, but only for a day or a given period of time. Hired servants were the lowest of servants!
- **Notice the sheep have no way of finding themselves.** When they are lost, they are lost. They need someone to find them. They have no homing instincts. **A coin, it cannot find itself. It is impersonal.** But here with this young man, he came to himself!
- **Notice, the father was not out searching for him,** as the shepherd was searching for the sheep and the woman was searching for the coin. The father was just waiting for him. Waiting for this day that he would wake up. Waiting for this day when he would come to himself and realize his folly!

***The Parable of the Father's Heart - Luk 15:20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.***

- **I imagine the father sat there every day watching the road,** waiting for his son to return. And "when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion!"
- **And ran! An older man, a father like this would never run** because it was not respectful. It was not a noble way to carry yourself within the culture. The father throws off all dignity here! He loves his son! He ran and fell on his neck and kissed him!
- **Kissed him! The word there is intensive, he smothered him** with kisses. I imagine he smelled like the pigs. Still covered with the filth and the dirt from the pig pen. But the father received him! He did not say, son, go in and get a bath. Clean up. Then I will touch you. Then I will kiss you. But in that filthy state, the father smothered him with kisses! He received that which was lost with joy!
- **Just think what I smelled like because of my sin, when my Father reached down and saved me! It was worse than the smell of pigs!**

**Luk 15:21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'**

- **Before the son could even give his little prepared speech;** Dad, I blew it! I am sorry, dad. I do not deserve to be called your son anymore. I would like a job of a hired servant. Before he could get his little speech out completely, his father interrupted him with such love!

**Luk 15:22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'**

- **Put a ring on his hand, that is, the family ring.** It was the seal of authority, the family authority, the signet ring.
- **Sandals on his feet, designating him** as a son rather than a servant. The slaves did not wear sandals. Putting on the sandals was the sign of making him his position as the son again, not a servant, not a slave. But giving him the position of a son. He may have lost his inheritance. He blew that. But he did not lose his sonship!
- **Notice the father did not ask him to earn his forgiveness.** No amount of good works can save us from our sins. This is all a gift for celebrating his return! (*Tit 3:3-7*) *For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. [4] But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, [5] not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

**Luk 15:23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;**

- **The fatted calf.** This was reserved only for the most special of occasions. It was a sacrifice or a feast of great celebration, which symbolized the lavishness of salvation's blessings! This is going to be the feast of a lifetime! The father is pulling out all the stops here! This is the thing you do for such a special occasion!
- **At the feast, I do not think that the younger son is sitting at the table stuffing his face.** He is probably sitting there next to his father, having tears in his eyes, really seeing his father for the first time in his life! He thought he knew his father. He is discovering him now. This old man who loves him so deeply, who has refused to hear of his sin and his failing? Looking into those eyes for the first time in his life. He only thought he knew what was behind those eyes, he did not realize until this point in his life of the extent of his father's love for him! Oh, what an example for us!

**Luk 15:24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.**

- **My son was dead!** Dead in his trespasses and sins. Dead to his family and his relationship with the father. My son who was dead!
- **Is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry!** The rejoicing, the lost has been found! *They began to be merry!*
- **How clearly do I see the love of the father in this parable? What does this tell me about my Father's love for me? Is there any similarity to that of the demonstration of my love toward a repenting sinner?**

**The Point of the Parable is the Older Son (a type of the Pharisees) - Luk 15:25-27 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. [26] So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. [27] And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'**

- **Now the punchline!** Remember this parable was prompted by the attitude of the Pharisees concerning the fact that Jesus was receiving sinners and eating with them.
- **His older son (the point of the overall parable. It is the older son's turn to disgrace his father!) was in the field:** The older son never lived a wasteful life. He was hard at work *in the field* even as the younger son came home. Hearing the sound of the party, *music and dancing*, he learned from a servant that his younger brother had come home. We see the distance between the older son and his father

here. Rather than just running into the house to join his father in the merriment of the feast, he asks one of the servants as to what is going on!

- **His older son symbolizes the Pharisee**, the hypocritical religious person, who stays close to the place of the Father (the temple) but has no sense of sin or real love for the Father, as to share in His joy, and has no interest in repenting sinners!

**Luk 15:28** *"But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.*

- **The older son was angry! He represents the Pharisees** who were complaining because Jesus was receiving sinners and eating with them. Both the Pharisees and this older brother were totally out of harmony with their father! Oh yes, he is obedient. No, he never ran away. Yes, he always did the right thing. But yet he was out of harmony with the heart of his father!
- **He was angry! Paul said, (Eph 4:26,31-32) "BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN":** do not let the sun go down on your wrath [31] Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. [32] And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. You know we all get angry. Listen, older brothers and sisters that are angry, that are judgmental, placing themselves outside in the dark, refusing to come in. It is a choice because of their anger, because of their bitterness, they placed themselves outside.
- **Jesus is pointing out that the Pharisees by their very attitude are out of harmony** with heaven! Heaven rejoices when the lost sheep has been found! Heaven rejoices when the lost coin is put back into circulation! Heaven rejoices when the lost son comes home! The father is rejoicing, he orders the party. He is ready to forgive. Oh, what grace is exemplified in this story! The Gospel is here! The Gospel of God's grace towards sinning men!
- **This Pharisaic attitude is still alive! It does exist** often even within the church. There are people who are not willing to restore those that are lost or have become lost! There are those that are still critical of an endeavor to lift the fallen and to minister grace to them! Their hearts are out of harmony with the heart of God! They have a Pharisaic attitude, rather than rejoicing over one sinner that repents, they groan, thinking that heaven is contaminated by sinners. I think of my lack of rejoicing for King Solomon, my holding on to his having seven hundred wives and breaking the law in being disobedient to multiplying wives, horses, silver and gold more than rejoicing over his turning back to the Lord, (Ecc 12:13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all!
- **The older son now disgraces his father! The Father came out and pleaded with him**, dealing with this elder son who is angry, earnestly appealing to him, reasoning with him! We see this is the greatest feast in his father's life, yet this older son's heart is far from his father!

**Luk 15:29-30** *So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving (douleuo – slaving, not out of love, but of duty, serving his time) you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. [30] But as soon as this son of yours (notice, not my brother!) came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'*

- **The older son was upset with his dad** because of his dad's love and mercy towards the younger son who was lost and had gone out and played the fool. He had done such horrible things! Here I am, I have always obeyed you. I have not strayed once. I have done the things that you asked. We see here a hint of animosity and distance between the two sons!
- **Here were the Pharisees**, trying to keep the law to the very letter, being judgmental looking down their noses at Jesus sitting with tax gatherers and sinners, failing like the older son in not rejoicing in the good news of the younger son being alive and returning! Here were the Pharisees with their robes wrapped tightly around them so they would not touch sinners! I have done your commandments.
- **But though you may be obedient to the commandments and be diligent** in this outward form of righteousness, yet within your heart, you are out of harmony with the heart of the Father whose heart is filled with compassion towards the erring son who was lost and rejoices that the son has finally come to himself and come home.

#### Comparisons - Older Son:

- ✓ Relationship based on works
- ✓ Served father not out of love, but of desire for reward;
- ✓ Saw himself in bondage to father.

#### Pharisees

- ✓ Religion of good works
- ✓ Focused on externals; hoped to earn God's blessings;
- ✓ Knew very little of God's grace.

**Luk 15:31** *"And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.*

- **The father deals with him graciously**, saying to him, *Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours!* That is true. Back in verse eleven, when the younger son said to divide the inheritance to us, we are told the older gets two thirds. The younger son gets one third. The younger son took his inheritance, squandered it, wasted it, and it was gone. At this point everything the father had was to go to the elder brother, who was mad because it was a waste of his money, a waste of his resources.
- **But his father said, I understand, but your brother was dead!** He was lost and now he is found! He is alive! It is proper to be merry!
- **Here is the challenge for the older brother.** If he cared about the father's heart at all, what would the older brother have been like? That is the challenge for us!
- **Assuming I had been put through the circumstances of the older brother, just how would I have handled the challenge? Would I have responded like the older brother? How much joy would I have had on the return of my younger brother?**

**Luk 15:32** It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother (the father corrects, "son of yours"! ) was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

- **Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees for their attitude** in that He was receiving sinners. Now, they were fearful that just by touching sinners they would be defiled. They found fault with Jesus because he was not only touching sinners, but He was also eating with them! It did not defile Him that He touched sinners, that He ate with them. No, it did not! What it did was to cleanse the sinners. Every time He touched a sinner, rather than Him being defiled by the defilement of the sinner, the sinner instead was cleansed by His touch! No longer a sinner.
- **Jesus receives sinners. He searches for that sinner.** He seeks those that are lost. And the Father waits for them to come to themselves and to return home. But the effect is always rejoicing, it is always that of joy. That is the natural response. When you find or receive something that has been lost, the natural response is rejoicing. The Pharisees were out of harmony with the heart of God! They were bitter, they were upset. They were angry. They were as the older brother who was angry because the father with joy received the lost son!
- These most interesting truths in chapter fifteen give us insight into the heart of the Father; into the heart of the Son and into the heart of the Holy Spirit, who are seeking, searching, and waiting for the lost to be found!
- **How closely do I see a person who comes to salvation through repentance to that of one who was dead and is now alive again? Was lost and is now found? Do I really have that merry and glad heart as described above?**

## SUMMARY

- **How does my joy, my rejoicing, over one sinner who repents, compare with that of the joy in the presence of the angels of God?** (Luke 15:10)
- **Just think what I smelled like because of my sin, when my Father reached down and saved me! It was worse than the smell of pigs!** (Luke 15:20)
- **How clearly do I see the love of the father in this parable? What does this tell me about my Father's love for me? Is there any similarity to that of the demonstration of my love toward a repenting sinner?** (Luke 15:24:26)
- **Assuming I had been put through the circumstances of the older brother, just how would I have handled the challenge? Would I have responded like the older brother? How much joy would I have had on the return of my younger brother?** (Luke 15:31)
- **How closely do I see a person who comes to salvation through repentance to that of one who was dead and is now alive again? Was lost and is now found? Do I really have that merry and glad heart as described above?** (Luke 15:32)



**CLOSING SONG - Oh, the love of the father! The love of our Father!**

**HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US** — *Selah (3:24/3:30)*

*How deep the Father's love for us How vast beyond all measure That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure How great the pain of searing loss The Father turns His face away As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory Behold the man upon the cross My sin upon His shoulder Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished I will not boast in anything No gifts, no power, no wisdom But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Father, thank You for these special lessons taught by our Lord that give us insight to Your heart. Help us, Lord, surely we want to be in harmony with Your heart. We want to rejoice in the things that heaven rejoices in, the lost being found, the prodigal son being restored. Father, give us Your heart and a heart for the lost. Above all, may our hearts be in harmony with His heart, beating with His heart with the desire of seeing the lost restored again to life.

**NEXT WEEK: Read and study *Luke Chapter 16!***