
Digging Deeper and Rising Higher . . .

How do the parables in Luke 15:3-10 relate to those who end up in the banquet in the parable told in Luke 14:15-24?

Why must God always seek to declare His own glory? How has God determined that His glory (goodness) is best displayed? What part do we get to play in this?

Some thoughts to take with you . . .

The Gospel is a fact, therefore tell it simply; it is a joyful fact, therefore tell it cheerfully; it is an entrusted fact, therefore tell it faithfully; it is a fact of infinite moment, therefore tell it earnestly; it is a fact about a Person, therefore preach Christ.

Archibald G. Brown

Wherever the missionary character of the doctrine of election is forgotten; wherever it is forgotten that we are chosen in order to be sent; wherever the minds of believers are concerned more to probe backwards from their election into the reasons for it in the secret counsel of God, than to press forward from their election to the purpose of it, ... that they should be Christ's ambassadors and witnesses to the ends of the earth, wherever men think that the purpose of election is their own salvation rather than the salvation of the world: then God's people have betrayed their trust.

Leslie Newbigin

First, we must admit that we were silly ever to think that any evangelistic technique, however skillful, could of itself guarantee conversions; second, we must recognize that, because man's heart is impervious to the word of God, it is no cause for surprise if at any time our evangelism fails to result in conversions; third, we must remember that the terms of our calling are that we should be faithful, not that we should be successful; fourth, we must learn to rest all our hopes of fruit in evangelism upon the omnipotent grace of God.

J. I. Packer

Living Beyond Ourselves **Rejoicing in Rescue** Luke 15:1-10

Introduction: With the memory of the Grand Banquet (14:15-24) fresh in the reader's mind, the question arises: *Why would a wealthy host want to let his house be filled with the poor, blind, crippled, and lame? And even more, why would he invite total strangers – foreigners! – to his banquet?* Jesus gives the answer: *Because His goodness and greatness are most clearly displayed in the rescue of those who are helpless to save themselves, and are unworthy in themselves to merit rescue.*

Where were we now?

The Ironic Situation

Luke 15:1,2

Those with "ears to hear": *tax collectors and sinners*
Those with mouths to criticize: *Pharisees and scribes*

The Dramatic Instruction

Luke 15:3-10

A diligent shepherd: *the found sheep*
A diligent woman: *the found coin*

Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...

So, what do we learn?

God's part:

Our part:

Living Beyond Ourselves
Rejoicing in Rescue
Luke 15:1-10

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Where were we now?

- The context of Luke 14 and 15:

- The Grand Banquet (14:15-24)

The Ironic Situation

Luke 15:1,2

Those with "ears to hear": *tax collectors and sinners*

Those with mouths to criticize: *Pharisees and scribes*

The Dramatic Instruction

Luke 15:3-30

A diligent shepherd: *the found sheep*

A diligent woman: *the found coin*

Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...

So, what do we learn?

God's part:

Our part:

KIDS NOTES

Rejoicing in Rescue

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. Those who wanted to hear more from Jesus were the:

- A. very religious people of His day.
- B. sinners and tax collectors.
- C. religious leaders of Jesus' day.
- D. all of the above.

2. Jesus told stories about:

- A. a lost dog and a lost coin.
- B. a lost sheep and a lost comb.
- C. a lost set of keys and a lost remote control.
- D. none of the above.

3. Those who are Christ-followers will:

- A. seek to rescue those who are lost.
- B. rejoice when someone comes to Jesus.
- C. understand that no one deserves rescue.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: Have you ever lost something very special to you? How did you feel? What did you do to try and find it? How is God like this in trying to find lost people?

Next Sunday is Family Sunday. There will be no Children's ministry for grades 1-6. Kids get to join their parents for the Sunday morning services.

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

PARABLE _____	TOTAL: _____
PHARISEES _____	_____
SHEEP _____	_____
LOST _____	_____
RESCUE _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

PARABLE PHARISEES SHEEP COIN LOST RESCUE SHOULDER
 CHRIST JESUS SALVATION HOPELESS MERIT UNWORTHY JESUS
 GRACE SAMPLES REDEMPTION SWEEP WOMAN SHEPHERD WOLF
 PREY PROTECT CARE GUIDE GOD SILVER HOUSE REJOICE SONGS

R E N Q A W G S A W C N N O T F
 O H E L I K R O E S B M O K C L D
 S T O S B O W D M G B S I E O W Y
 F U T U C A C B S A X V T W Q L X
 C G S T L U R E H L N O P E E H S
 H U O E T D E A O C R W M P R E Y
 R I L E J S E F P P A Q E I I E U
 I D V R I D Z R E G O R D V C N S
 S E G R I V M R L G A P E A W T E
 T I A D R E H P E H S H R O S I L
 H H S G N O S Z S O W G R I H R P
 P R E J O I C E S A U T L O L E M
 Q S A L V A T I O N H V U R A M A
 S W E E P N E V P Y E S P O C U S
 Q C S K L U V Z F R E E S M Q P J