
Digging Deeper and Rising Higher . . .

What do the three parables in Luke 15 teach about God's perspective on the lost? on the responsibility of repentance?

What does the parable of the Man and Two Sons in Luke 15 teach you about repentance? How is true repentance characterized?

Some thoughts to take with you . . .

Pride is the presumption that we can be happy without depending on God as the source of our happiness and without caring if others find their happiness in God. Pride is the passion to be happy contaminated and corrupted by two things: 1) the unwillingness to see God as the only fountain of true and lasting joy, and 2) the unwillingness to see other people as designed by God to receive our joy in Him. If you take the desire to be happy and strip away from it God as the fountain of your happiness, and people as the recipients of your happiness, what you have left is pride. Pride is the pursuit of happiness anywhere but in the glory of God and the good of other people.

John Piper

Repentance that renews precious fellowship with our incomparably wonderful God ultimately furthers our joy. Just as we cannot enter into true repentance without sorrow for our guilt, we cannot emerge from true repentance without joy for our release from shame.

Bryan Chapell

Our natural prejudgment of reality is against God. To receive the truth of God requires that our 'anti' bias be changed. The key work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration is not giving new knowledge to the brain but changing the disposition of the heart. Before the Spirit turns that heart of stone into a heart of flesh, we have no desire for the things of God. We may desire the blessings that only God can give us, but we have no affection for the things of God. At the moment of regeneration, the eyes of the heart are opened somewhat, but this is just the beginning. The whole Christian life involves an unfolding and enlarging of the heart's openness to the things of God.

R.C. Sproul

Living Beyond Ourselves **Rejoicing in Restoration** Luke 15:11-32

Introduction: With the memory of the Grand Banquet (14:15-24) fresh in the reader's mind, a third important question arises: *Knowing that God has a heart to seek the lost, what responsibility do the lost have? Is it possible for those who have rejected God's invitation in Christ to "come home" and find a seat at the table? Answer: God does have a heart for the lost, but they will only know and experience it through the doorway of true repentance.*

Where were we now?

The Grand Banquet
The Great Questions

The Story: A Man and His Two Sons

Luke 15:11-32

The Younger Son: *rebellion, poverty, repentance*

The Father: *forgiveness, restoration, celebration*

The Older Son: *anger, resentment, rejection*

The Father: *explanation and instruction*

The Significance: Our God and Us

Understanding God's gracious heart
Experiencing God grace through repentance

Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...

Living Beyond Ourselves
Rejoicing in Restoration
Luke 15:11-32

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KIDS NOTES

Rejoicing in Restoration

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?

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