

Parable Series- Week 4

Small Stories; **BIG** Truths

Luke 15: 1-32 The Lost Parables/ The King's Mission

Today's two Kingdom insights _____ **&** _____

Read Luke 15: 1-2, Why the muttering?

The Pharisees had established themselves as righteous men and anyone who did not fit this mold was a sinner. From their perspective to be eating with sinners was unclean and they had no interest in letting sinners be apart of the fold. The Pharisees in their power & influence had really misrepresented what the Kingdom is all about and Jesus through parables explains the truth.

Look up the following scripture to show Jesus's thoughts on just how lost *they* were.

Matthew 23:3-6

Matthew 23: 13

Matthew 23:25-27

John 5:39-41

What is Jesus Mission?

John 3:16-17

New Testament examples of Jesus demonstrating His mercy to sinners:

- John 8:1-11
- John 4:39-42
- Luke 5:29-32
- Luke 19:1-10

Read 15:1-10 – Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin

Who represent who?

Shepherd/Women:

Lost Sheep/Lost Coin:

What do the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin parables have in common?

In verse 3 notice the scripture, “Then Jesus told **them** this parable....” Who was Jesus teaching the parable to, who was the audience (them)?

What BIG truths do these two parables teach the lost/sinners?

At the close of each parable (v 7 & V 10) Jesus says the words.. I tell _____.

What BIG truths do these two parables teach the Pharisees?

Ezekiel 34:11-16

What BIG truths do we learn about the mission and the Heart of God?

Reckless love of God (with story) by Cory Ashbury

Have you felt the pursuing love of God in your life? How do we live out this gift of love?

Read Luke 15:11-31 – The Parable of the Lost Son(s)

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

Picture yourself as the father what are your thoughts on this request, why did the father go along with the request? What is this a picture of for us as today?

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

What was Jesus saying about the life of sin?

In what ways is experiencing consequences of sin to a person’s benefit? Did the father know this?

It’s easy to look at the parable and say its for the unsaved but do you ever in thought or deed find yourself off in a distant country from God (any place you don’t want the father to look at)?

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

What is Jesus trying to emphasize?

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

We see a reoccurring theme of celebrating the lost. We also see the clear mission of the Kingdom, what is that mission? What does that mean for us?

Restoration back to sonship;

Robe significance _____

Ring significance _____

Sandals significance _____

What does this realization mean to you?

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

So far, the parable is a picture of the lost sinners and at the end Jesus is again addressing the pious religious rulers in the picture of the oldest brother. In Verses 29 & 30 he uses significant words that show how he feels towards his family. What does this tell us about his heart condition?

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

In this parable we can agree that the father represents God. This last verse you are always with me and everything I have is yours. What does that mean to you?