

Luke 15, "The Heart of God, Part 2"

- ✚ The major theme of these parables is the lost being found; they express the heart of God for the lost and how far the religious leaders were from really knowing God at all, Luke 15:1-10 and Luke 15:32. But there is a greater theme and one that is even further from the thoughts of Pharisees and, maybe, our own thoughts, and that is the sheer joy of God in recovering the lost. Remember the point of the Bible is that we know God, not knowing God is the greatest problem in the world. Heaven and Hell will be places where the full knowledge of God will be universal, Hebrews 8:10-12. But while we are still here, knowing God needs to be our number one objective since it is our number one problem. The biggest theme of these parables is that our God is a God who rejoices over people who repent and turn to Him. Is that your picture of Him? "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit," Romans 15:13, also Romans 14:17. Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last, your troubles will be over, and you will never again fear disaster. Zephaniah 3:14-15. Is that your picture of God? If it is not, you've got the wrong picture! Can you imagine being in Heaven and having God shout over the fact that you are there? It was the Joy of having you be His that gave Him the will to move through all the torture and death He endured for us, Hebrews 12:2. Do we really know what God is like? Do we really understand Him? The point of these stories is to tell us the single truth of Heaven's reaction when the lost are found.
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1. Luke 19:10 "To seek and to save that which was lost."

- ✓ Jesus' entire ministry summed up in one sentence. It is the theme of the entire Bible. These parables exist for sole purpose of us knowing God. What is God doing? It's simple, He is seeking and saving the lost ones.

2. Searching for a coin Luke 19:8-10.

- ✓ He's exposing the fact that the Pharisees and scribes have nothing to do with what's going on in Heaven. He does that by first telling two stories that are basically questions that draw them in. They have to first think like a shepherd, and then they have to think like a woman. Thinking like a shepherd was offensive because herding sheep was beneath them. But thinking like a woman? The Pharisees had a philosophy that I call defilement of thought, they wouldn't be a shepherd because that is a defiled occupation, but to even think like a shepherd was considered defiling to them; and now He was making them put themselves in the place of a woman. Jesus' questioning story required them to put themselves in the place of and think like a woman, which was insulting to them. They didn't want to be compared to a woman, which again reveals their hearts in a similar way to their snobbery concerning shepherds, both of these reveals how far they were from God. God claims to be a shepherd, and had no problem being compared to a woman!, Psalm 23:1; 5. In the ancient middle east, men never set the table and never prepare the meal. Nevertheless, God is compared to a woman who prepares a meal. Jesus went even further with comparing Himself to females, Luke 13:34, not just a female but a female chicken! Women were extremely disrespected in this backwards culture; they didn't even teach the women the Law of God. Famous Pharisaical prayer was "Lord, I thank Thee that I was not born a Gentile or a Woman." Jesus pushes them with this story right into the defilement of comparing themselves to a woman.
 - ✓ The ten coins. what were they? More likely, we are looking at the money that her husband would have given her for extreme circumstances. They lived from day to day as her husband earned enough each day to feed them, what would she do in the interim until arrangements could be made their care if there was an emergency? Husbands would often give their wives a certain number of coins to pay expenses if something ever happened, this wasn't spending money; it was emergency money. She would keep this in a very safe place and would probably take them with her wherever she went so she could safeguard them. More often than not, she would bore small holes in each of them and wear them as jewelry. Understand, she is going to find this coin, they barely make over what they can eat each day, so to have saved enough for 10 days wages would have been hard. If she has to remove everything from the house, she will find this coin.
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- ✓ Again, this story is axiomatic: of course, she would do this! Of course, the shepherd would find that lost sheep. Jesus hits them with one more axiom: of course, you know God rejoices over sinners who repent? "In the presence of the angels" so the angels are the audience, God is the one rejoicing, Luke 19:10. "All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine," Revelation 3:5 Why this confession? Because it's the cause of a party! As one sinner after another is sought, found and recovered, the party never ends. God Himself is that woman, it is God Himself who's seeking the sinner whose fallen into the cracks of life, the camouflaged in the dust and debris of this dirty world. We are that coin, lifeless, dead in our trespasses and sins, unable to find ourselves or move ourselves into the light.

God lowers Himself to the dust of this place and descends all the way to a cruel cross. He shines the light of His gospel and through the gospel and reaches down to pick us up and dust us off and place us back in His heavenly treasury where our names have been written since the foundation of the world. And then, He rejoices over us, something so precious to Him has been found.
