

## Lesson 16: The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin and Lost Son and The Elder Brother

Luke 15:1-32  
September 8, 2021

### Luke 15 – Context

**Luke 15:1-2, “Now all the publicans and sinners were drawing near unto him to hear him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.”**

- The publicans and sinners are often classified together (cf. Luke 5:30; 7:34). Jesus did not abstain from eating with them (cf. Luke 5:27-29).
- Pharisees and Scribes. cf. Matthew 23:23; Luke 18:9
  - “Pharisee,” means “separatist”

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- Luke 5:30 – Not an uncommon accusation.
- The Pharisees tried to persuade the general populace that Jesus’ credibility was destroyed by His sharing with these people.
- That might have been true had He never indicated His objection to what was wrong in their lives. However, see Exodus 18:1; Deuteronomy 21:20-21; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 2:12.

### Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

#### Thoughtlessness.

- The Lost Sheep will know it is lost, but not know the way back to the fold.
- The figure of the shepherd, sheep, and sheepfold is found many times in the scriptures. Isaiah 53:6ff; Matthew 18:10ff; John 10:1ff; Acts 20:28; etc.
- Hebrews 2:1; cf. Matthew 9: 36, a picture of a multitude that had no real purpose in life.

### Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

The Shepherd:

- “The self-righteous religious leaders placed the shepherds outside their social circles. They considered them to be ignorant, and did not regard them as worthy of special consideration.
- “All this in spite of the fact that some of their most revered Scriptures pictured God as the Shepherd of His people, and His Messiah as a Lamb to be slaughtered (Ps. 23; Is. 40, 53; Jer. 31; Mic. 5).
- “God had even said, ‘I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away’ (Ezek. 34:14-15 see vv. 11-31).”

(C.G. Caldwell, *Ezekiel*, Truth Commentaries, page 830)

### Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

#### Absorption in other matters.

- Life. Luke 14:15ff
  - Pay attention to the most important things.

### **Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7**

Lack of knowledge, spiritual interest,  
and diligence. cf. Hosea 4:6

- “Give diligence” 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:11
- “Take heed.” cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 3:12
- Failure to do this means we are lost. cf. Hosea 4:6; Acts 17:30.

Great occasion of rejoicing when the lost sheep is found. 7

### **Lost Through Uselessness – The Lost Coin. Verses 8-10**

- This coin was of no value because it was “out of circulation.”
- She has ten (deka) pieces of silver (drachmas).
- A drachma was a silver Greek coin comparable to the Roman denarius.
- Each was approximately equivalent to the value of an average day’s wage for a manual laborer (Matthew 20:2).

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### **Lost Through Uselessness – The Lost Coin. Verses 8-10**

This coin was of no value because it was “out of circulation.”

- The Lost Coin will not know it is lost and, of course, it will not know the way back to the woman’s pocket.
- Many have changed from useful vessels into useless vessels, from vessels of honor to vessels dishonor. 2 Timothy 2:20

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### **Lost Through Uselessness – The Lost Coin. Verses 8-10**

This coin was of no value because it was “out of circulation.”

- Uselessness means: loss of zeal for the Lord, loss of concern for others, and loss of influence. Matthew 5:13-14
- The useless member is ... the one who has quit. Luke 9:62

Great occasion of rejoicing when the lost coin is found.

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### **Lost Through Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.

- The three characters in the parable:
  - The merciful father.
  - The prodigal son.
  - The self-righteous son.
- Jesus brings forth this account of a loving father distressed by the selfishness of **BOTH** a younger and an elder son.
- This story is more touching than the first two because it involves hurting human beings in family tension.

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### **Lost Through Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.

- He knows he is lost and will know the way back to his father’s household.
- He willfully asked for his inheritance.
- He willfully went into the far country.
- He willfully wasted his substance with riotous living.

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**Lost Through Willfulness –  
The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

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The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.

- Exaltation of my will and a desecration of God's will. Romans 1:18ff; Hebrews 10:26ff
- He was dead in sin. cf. Ephesians 2:1-2
  - Rebellion, stubbornness, and defiance of authority. cf. Absalom. 2 Samuel 15-18
- In the pigpen. (Owner a Gentile.)
  - The Jews could not eat pork (Isaiah 65:4; 66:17) and they did not raise hogs. Swine were unclean to them (Leviticus 11:7; Deuteronomy 14:8).

**Lost Through Willfulness –  
The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

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The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.  
He Came To Himself!  
1 John 1:8-9; Proverbs 28:13;  
Isaiah 59:2; Matthew 16:26-27

**Lost Through Willfulness –  
The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

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NOTE THE FATHER!

- God's forgiveness is conditional.
- The father did not scold or admonish.
- The father made himself vulnerable.

**Lost Through Willfulness –  
The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

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NOTE THE FATHER!  
Significance of:  
**Clothes:**

- The filthy robes of Joshua, the high priest, were changed for clean, rich robes before the Angel of the Lord (Zechariah 3:3-5).
- The angel in the tomb of Jesus wore a "long white robe" (*stolen*; Mark 16:5).
- Revelation 3:5, "*He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life*"
- Revelation 3:18, "*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed.*"
- A white robe was given to each of the souls who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. Revelation 6:11

**Lost Through Willfulness –  
The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24**

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NOTE THE FATHER!  
Significance of:

**Ring:** Servants did not wear fine rings. Only important people wore signet rings (James 2:2).

**Shoes:** Slaves often did not wear or could not afford shoes.

**Fatted calf:** One put up and fed for a special occasion.