

How Jesus Responds When We Stray
Luke 15
May 27 & 28, 2023

Today We're Looking at 3 Stories:

- 1. A Shepherd Goes After One Lost Sheep**
- 2. A Woman Searches for a Coin of Great Value**
- 3. A Father Welcomes His Lost Son Home**

Jesus WELCOMES Those Who Are Lost and Far From Him.

Luke 15:1, *Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach.² This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!*

Luke 15:3, *So Jesus told them this story:*

Luke 15:4, *“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?”*

Luke 15:5, *And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’*

Luke 15:7, *In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!*

Luke 15:8, *“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it?⁹ And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’¹⁰ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”*

The Coin Doesn't Know It's Lost but It Has GREAT VALUE to Its Owner.

They Don't Need to Be Told How Lost They Are, They Need to Know How VALUABLE They Are.

Luke 15:11, *To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.*

Luke 15:13, *"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.*

Luke 15:14, *About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he finally came to his senses...*

Luke 15:17, *"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father...*

Luke 15:18, *..."Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."*

Luke 15:20, *So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.*

Luke 15:21, *His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'*

Luke 15:22, *...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.'*

You Are Not a Coin, You Are Not a Sheep, You Have the Choice to Turn to Jesus