

What Matters to God

Luke 15

What is *REALLY* Important to You?

Introduction Luke 15:2-3

The reason why Jesus gave this Parable: The religious leaders had a problem with Jesus. They believed that God hated sinners and they were convinced that God wanted them to avoid such people.

Jesus knew how these religious leaders felt, so in order to correct their perception of God and how He feels about sinners, Jesus told these three parables.

The Three Parables

#1 Lost Sheep vs 4-7

- The shepherd has 100 sheep and loses one. What is His response? He leaves the 99 and goes searching for the one.

He does an all-out search until he finds His missing sheep.

#2 The Lost Coin vs 8-10

Here we see a woman who has ten silver coins and loses one.

So she sweeps the house and searches carefully until she finds it. I think she turns the house upside down carefully looking for this lost coin that was of great value to her.

The point, the sinners Jesus spent time with are of great value to God. Yes, they are lost, but the Father will never stop seeking for them and when they are found He is going to throw a party and celebrate.

#3 The Lost Son 11-32

The younger son asked his father for his share of the wealth and spent it all in a distant land partying.

Conflict vs 14 We see that the younger son has spent everything he had. Then a famine occurs and he hits rock bottom. He has wasted all of his estate.

Comes to His Senses vs 17 When He came to his senses he said, "How many of my Father's hired men have more than enough bread to eat, but I am dying here with hunger."

Brokenness vs 18 - 19 We see his brokenness and he plans to go tell His Father, "I have sinned against heaven and in your sight – I am no longer worthy to be called your Son." He plans to ask his Father for forgiveness and to ask to become one of his hired hands.

Father's Eyes vs 20 The father was looking for his son before He even returned. He felt compassion for him.

The Fathers Response As soon as the son starts to say he has sinned the father steps in and commands his slave quickly to bring out the best robes, the robes which were for the honored guest. We see God the Father gives him a ring and a robe which indicate that He is a part of His family.

Older Sons Response vs 29 He became angry. He was self-righteous, like the religious leaders.

Father and Older Son vs 28 So the Father comes to Him and encourages him to come rejoice with Him. This represents the Pharisees who didn't want to have sinners come to the banquet.

Isaiah 53:6 "All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all"
To fall on Him. He is the one who has paid for our iniquities.

What Matters to God? God is seeking out those that are lost. He is actively searching for them and waiting to celebrate when one sinner repents with His angels in heaven.

What Should Matter To Us? Lost people should matter to us.

Lost people are so important to God that He sent His only son to die for them. God is looking and waiting for those lost sheep to come to Him.

Does What Matters to God Matter to Us?