

Study Guide for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Parables of Jesus. Seeking to Find the Lost. Luke 15:1-10

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Introduction: Recall a time something you valued was missing. What process did you go through to find **that which was lost**? How did you feel when you found it? Were you more careful in the future?

I. The Audience: (vs. 1-2)

- A. Who, according to Luke 15:1, constitutes the audience to whom Jesus addressed these parables?
- B. How would you describe the attitudes of these folks toward others and toward Jesus? (see vs. 2)
- C. How are we in danger of holding the same attitudes? Toward whom?
- D. Read Luke 5:27-32. Reflect on how Jesus called you to follow him. Do you still have the excitement Levi seems to exhibit as he introduces Jesus to his colleagues? Why or why not?

II. The Lost Sheep: (vs. 3-7)

- A. Try to imagine what went through the Shepherd's mind when he . . .
  - 1) Realized the one sheep was lost:
  - 2) Searched for the lost sheep:
  - 3) Found the lost sheep:
  - 4) Called friends and neighbors to rejoice:
- B. What does this parable teach you about God?
- C. How should our actions and attitudes be effected by this parable?
- D. Compare Matthew's account of this parable (Matt. 18:10-14). What addition insights can you discover about the character of God?

III. The Lost Coin: (vs. 8-10)

- A. How is this parable similar to that of the Lost Sheep? How is it different?
- B. Why do you think Jesus told two parables on this same theme?
- C. How does the fact of **rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents** effect your view of God?
- D. Read and reflect on II Cor. 5:16-21. What does it mean to you that God has appointed you to be an ambassador for Christ? How might you grow in your ability to represent Him to the lost people that you encounter every day?

Conclusion: Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10)  
Who has God put into your circle of influence that you are in a unique position to seek to see them reconciled to God? Take time to pray for them and consider how God might use you.