

God Rejoices When One Sinner Repents

Luke 15:1-32

Key Verse: 15:31, 32

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

1. Read verses 1-2. What were the Pharisees muttering about? Read verses 3-7. Who was the lost sheep in this parable? Why does the shepherd go looking for the one lost sheep? Why can't a shepherd be satisfied with the 99 who are left?
2. Think about the shepherd's search for the lost sheep. What does he do when he finds the lost one? What does this parable teach us about God's heart?
3. Read verses 8-10. What did the woman lose? What did she do to find it? What should we learn from her? What does she do when she finds the lost coin? What does this parable teach about God? How is this parable similar to the first one?
4. Read verses 11-13. What did the younger son ask of his father? Why was this presumptuous? Why did his father give him what he wanted? What does this teach about God and man? What did the younger son do with his freedom?
5. Read verses 14-20a. What happened when a famine struck the land? What shows that the younger son hit the bottom? What did he remember and what did he decide to do?
6. Read verses 20b-24. How did the father welcome his son? What does this teach about God? Describe the son's repentance. What did the father say to the servants? How and why did he celebrate? What did he say? How does this reveal the heart of God?
7. Read verses 25-32. How did the older brother react when he heard the music and dancing and feasting? How and why was his view of his brother different from that of his father? What did the father say? In what sense was the elder son also a lost son? What was his relationship with his father? How was he like the Pharisees?