

Will The Real Jesus, Please Stand Up?

(Luke 15:1-7)

- Introduction:
1. Do you think that our view of Jesus ever needs some refining due to imposing our own ideas upon him?
 2. What we think Jesus would do is not always what he did.
 3. For some, Luke 15 is a disturbing portrayal of Jesus, for others, it is a challenge.
 4. Let's take a look.

I. Notice His Association

- A. (Luke 15:1).
- B. They didn't just follow Jesus around; he invited and welcomed them.
- C. (Matthew 9:10).
- D. How can one be holy and associate with sinners like Jesus?
- E. Jesus remained separated from sin, but not sinners.
- F. Workplace, school...if we separated ourselves, how would people come to know Jesus?
- G. (1 Corinthians 5:9-10).

II. Notice The Grumbling

- A. (Luke 15:2).
- B. The religious people of the day didn't like Jesus' association with sinners.
- C. The Pharisees were the "separated ones" who prided themselves for their lack of association with sinners.
- D. (Luke 7:36-39).
- E. The Pharisee's desire to be separate from sin had evolved into separation from the sinner.
- F. They had become "too heavenly minded to be of any earthly good."

III. Notice The Seeking

- A. (Luke 15:4-7).
- B. What was Jesus doing with these sinners? He was seeking them.
- C. This assembly is the pasture...not many lost people come here.
- D. The mission work is primarily outside the walls of this building.

IV. Notice The Rejoicing

- A. (Luke 15:7).
- B. The difference between Heaven and Hell ought to bring rejoicing.

- Conclusion:
1. The Pharisees, in derision, called Jesus a "friend of tax collectors and sinners."
 2. They were right. That's exactly what he was.
 3. What they didn't realize is that they should have been the same, and so should we.