

Parables of Grace

The Joy of Grace: The Lost Sheep & Coin

(Luke 15:1-10)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever lost something, then felt tremendous relief and joy upon finding it?
 - a. Ills. of Kelli.
 - b. Ills. of Matthew.
 2. The parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin remind us of God's joy over reclaiming the lost.
 3. Let's consider these two parables and what we can learn from them.

I. The Parables

- A. (Luke 15:1-10).
- B. In both parables, something is lost, then found, and great joy resulted.
- C. This parable was spoken to the Pharisees.
 1. The Pharisees were considered to be "experts" at the law.
 2. Generally speaking, they were mostly portrayed as hypocrites.
- D. When we don't appreciate how much we need grace, we often find it hard to extend it to others.
- E. In this parable, Jesus asks the Pharisees to consider what it would be like to be in the shoes of two people for which they had little respect.
 1. Shepherds – bottom of society's social ladder.
 2. Woman – "In all this inferior to the man" Josephus.
- F. He reminds us of God's gracious pursuit of us.

II. Application of the Parable

- A. Jesus found himself among sinners because of their unholiness, while the Pharisees, because of their pursuit for holiness, avoided sinful people.
 1. Jesus was called a friend of sinners (Matthew 11:19).
 2. Christianity is not a social club of the saved.
 3. We need to be seeking the lost (Matthew 28:19-20; John 9:4).
 4. We must walk a fine line (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- B. We need to learn to see people as God sees people.
 1. (John 3:16).
 2. (Romans 5:6-11).
- C. We should express our joy when the lost are saved.
 1. Do we encourage new Christians?
 2. Or is that someone else's job?

- Conclusion:
1. We should be thankful to God for the Joy of his grace!
 2. (Micah 7:18).