

Episode: Other Letters Series No. 08

Narrator: Woman with a lost coin

Primary Scriptures: Luke 15:8-10

Story Summary: You can't find what you've lost if you look in the wrong place

Location: Israel

Time: 30's AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 15:10

Luke 15 has three "lost" parables of Jesus. Luke 15:1-3 says Jesus was being surrounded by tax collectors and sinners to hear him. Disapproving religious leaders complain that he welcomes sinners. It seems Jesus tells three parables to his main audience, but likely tells them loudly enough that his peripheral audience can hear them, too.

Luke 15:4-6 tells the parable of the lost sheep. A shepherd has 100 sheep but one goes missing. The shepherd leaves the 99 to find the lost sheep. Upon finding it, he rejoices with his friends and neighbors. Per Luke 15:7, the lesson is that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than 99 who do not need to repent. The implication is that the person who is lost has gotten lost by choice, but knowing that, the Lord still goes to the effort to bring the lost person back.

Luke 15:8-9 tells of the parable of the lost coin. A woman loses a coin in her house and has search with great care to find it. Upon finding it, she rejoices with her friends and neighbors. One lesson is the woman has to search in the right place and in the right way to find the coin. Per Luke 15:10, Jesus says that the repentance of just one sinner causes the angels of God to rejoice. One sinner is a very valuable thing to recover.

Luke 15:11-32 is the parable of the lost son, or the parable of the prodigal son. This parable doesn't conclude with summary by Jesus, but it is full of lessons for the hearers of Jesus. One lesson that cannot be missed by anyone in Jesus' audience is that sinners have great worth to Jesus and God, but the religious leaders refuse to acknowledge that they do.

A few chapters later, in Luke 19:10, Jesus says, "For the Son of Man came to see and to save the lost."

These parables hold a lot of painful truths for modern Christians. It is easy for the 99 sheep to keep the other 99 safe, Sunday after Sunday after Sunday. It's more of a challenge to go seek the ones who are lost and need to be found.

Another lesson is that Jesus didn't seek the lost just to hang out with them or make them feel good about their lostness. He wants them to repent, to change their ways so they can be truly saved to a full life.