Luke

Chapter 15

Luke 15 – The "Lost" Parables

1. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
2. The Parable of the Lost Coin
3. The Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:1-7 – The Parable of the Lost Sheep

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering
around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the
teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes
sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this
parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep
and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine
in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he
finds it?

Luke 15:1-7 – The Parable of the Lost Sheep

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his
shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends
and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I
have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same
way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one
sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous
persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:8-10 – The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses
one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and
search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds
it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says,
'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the
same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of
the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two
sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give
me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property
between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son
got together all he had, set off for a distant country and
there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he
had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that
whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he
went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country,
who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Lost Son

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the
pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17
"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of
my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here
I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to
my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be
called your son; make me like one of your hired
servants.'

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Lost Son

20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he
was still a long way off, his father saw him and was
filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw
his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to
him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against
you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22
"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the
best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and
sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it.
Let's have a feast and celebrate.

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Lost Son

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he
was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. 25
“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he
came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So
he called one of the servants and asked him what was
going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and
your father has killed the fattened calf because he has
him back safe and sound.’

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Lost Son

28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go
in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But
he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been
slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet
you never gave me even a young goat so I could
celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours
who has squandered your property with prostitutes
comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Lost Son

31 “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me,
and everything I have is yours. 32 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.’ ”

🔍 Side-by-Side Comparison of Luke 15 Parables

Element	Lost Sheep *(vv. 3–7)*	Lost Coin *(vv. 8–10)*	Lost Son *(vv. 11–32)*
Who is lost?	1 sheep out of 100	1 coin out of 10	1 son out of 2
Lost by…	Wandering away	Being misplaced/unnoticed	Willful rebellion
Who seeks?	A shepherd	A woman	A father waits, watches, then runs
How is the lost found?	Active search	Careful search	The son returns in repentance
Reaction upon finding	Rejoicing, carries it home	Rejoicing, invites friends	Lavish celebration, feast
Message/Conclusion	Joy in heaven over one sinner	Joy before angels over repentance	God’s grace outweighs human standards
Who’s the objector?	Implied (Pharisees)	Implied (Pharisees)	The older brother

🎨 Visual Summary

You can imagine a progression:

1. 🐑 **Animal** — a lost sheep: simple, helpless, wandered off
2. 🪙 **Object** — a lost coin: unaware, yet still valuable
3. 👤 **Person** — a lost son: willfully left, but deeply loved

Each step adds depth and relational closeness. The lost thing becomes more precious, and the restoration becomes more emotional and meaningful.

💬 Discussion Questions

1. **What does each parable reveal about God's character?**
2. **Why do you think Jesus used three parables instead of one?**
3. **In what ways are we sometimes like the younger son? The older brother?**
4. **Have you ever experienced being "found" by God—or seen someone return to Him?**
5. **What would it look like to join in heaven's joy instead of judging others' repentance?**

🛐 Prayer Prompt

> *Father, thank You for seeking me when I was lost. Help me to see others the way You do—valuable, redeemable, and worthy of grace. Give me the heart of the shepherd, the joy of the woman, and the love of the father. Keep me from the pride of the older brother. Amen.*

This has been very helpful. Thank you

You're very welcome — I'm really glad it was helpful to you! If you ever want to explore more parables, dive deeper into a passage, or create more study materials, just let me know. Blessings on your reading and reflection!