



*Lost and Found: The Heart of the Gospel*

*Luke 15:1-32*

*Sermon Study Notes*

Sometimes we misunderstand that which is most familiar to us.

The pattern of the parables in Luke 15 is lostness that is resolved by foundness, which results in rejoicing.

Lostness and foundness are essential to our understanding of the Gospel.

The Gospel is not about an improvement plan; the Gospel is about a rescue.

Every single conversion is a miracle.

The Scribes and Pharisees are not looking for a message of grace; they're looking for ammunition.

The parables of Jesus are part of what got Him crucified.

### **I. A Lost Lamb (15:1-7)**

God doesn't act like we act, and He doesn't think like we think.

There is nothing the lamb can do to find itself; it doesn't even know it's lost.

If it did come to the knowledge it was lost, there's nothing it could do to find itself or to make itself be found.

But the Shepherd seeks the sheep and finds it, and when He does, there is rejoicing.

**Takeaway:** What causes rejoicing around the throne of God is when just one sinner repents.

### **II. A Lost Coin (15:8-10)**

Lostness is a fundamentally human condition.

**Takeaway:** Human beings do not have to do anything to get lost; we are born lost.

### **III. A Lost "Wandering Son" (15:11-24)**

This parable begins differently than the other two, primarily because the son makes himself lost.

This is an incredible portrait of human autonomy.

This is our subversive attempt to get out from under the rule of our Creator.

The father divided his estate between *them*.

This is what lostness looks like - we take ourselves into exile in a foreign country.

Sin is surrounded by concentric circles of sin.

The more we try to involve ourselves in any rescue we might attempt on our own, the more we are complicit in sin.

The Father is the central character in this story.

A human father would know that he must give punishment, but the Heavenly Father gives grace.

**Takeaway:** The Father is the One who determines who is and is not His son.

### **IV. A Lost "Faithful Son" (15:25-32)**

There are two sons; both of them are lost.

The way you know whether you're a friend of the Shepherd is whether or not you're rejoicing.

**Takeaway:** It's God's grace that we ever come to the realization we're lost.

There is only one way to be found, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ.