THE PARABLE OF THE JOY OF FINDING

PART I

Luke 15:1-10

MAIN THOUGHT These three parables reveal God’s ATTITUDE toward sinners in contrast to that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

INTRODUCTION (1-2).

• These three parables (lost sheep, coin, son) are actually one (this parable – 3; or – 3; continued – 11). The common thematic words are LOST, FOUND, and JOY.

<table>
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<th>LOST SHEEP</th>
<th>LOST COIN</th>
<th>LOST SON</th>
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<td>The Pasture</td>
<td>The House</td>
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<td>The Herdsman</td>
<td>The Housewife</td>
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<td>The Sheep</td>
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• There was great contention about one’s relationship toward sinners: TAX COLLECTORS (traitors who sold out to the Romans enriching themselves) and SINNERS.
• Jesus LOVED (Rom. 5:8) while the Pharisees MUTTERED (18:9-14; 19:7).

THE LOST SHEEP (15:3-7).

• Sheep have a tendency to stray and need a shepherd (Isa. 53:6; 1 Pet. 2:25).
• The shepherd was responsible for each sheep. He had to pay for lost sheep unless he could prove it was a predator (Gen. 31:38-39; Ex. 22:12-13).
• Ezekiel condemned BAD SHEPHERDS (Ezek. 34:1-6) and extolled the GOOD SHEPHERDS (Ezek. 34:11-16; Gen. 3:8-9; Psa. 23:1-2; Isa. 40:11; John 10:11).
• Jesus will find all of his sheep – not one will be lost (John 10:27-28).
• There is great JOY not only by the one found (crippled man – Acts 3:8; Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:39), but also by the one who finds as well as his friends.
• The angels in heaven rejoice when even one sinner repents, for they know what they are saved FROM (hell) and saved TO (heaven).

THE LOST COIN (15:8-10).

• The woman was probably given these coins as a dowery when she was engaged. These ten coins were customarily on a chain around her head or neck – an engagement ring with monetary and emotional value.
• She diligently searched perhaps a dirt floor with lamp and broom until she found it. Elated she calls here friends to rejoice with her.
• In the same way the angels in heaven rejoice when even one sinner repents.