

The Gospel of Luke: Heaven's Joy (Luke 15)

1. God's Joy Fills Heaven with Joy

- A. God's Joy comes from the lost being found, when they come to repentance (*vs. 7,10,32*)
1. *Ezk33:11; Jer32:37-42; Zeph3:14-17*
2. God doesn't say joy over a decision, but one sinner who repents, truly saved
- B. His joy over saving the lost, fills heaven with joy and should be the source of our joy, as His people
*Notice the angels (*Lk2:10-14*); heaven – *Rev5:9-10*; **the apostles, Ac5:40-42* (David in Ps51)

2. God is a Savior by Nature

- A. The right question to ask - many ask how could God let cancer, abuse, etc. continue - *Rom5:12*
*We should ask, what kind of God let's _____ live? **wages of sin = death; Rom3:10-12*
- B. A kind, loving, patient, merciful God, who is a _____
1. Jesus – Jehovah saves, name Him this for He will save His people from their sins
2. *Titus1:3,4; 2:11-13; 3:3-6*
- C. God seeks; God finds; God _____; God restores; God _____! (*15:6-7,9-10, 32*)
1. God finds great joy showing His mercy, love and grace in saving a sinner!
2. Pharisees/Scribes: If you understand rejoicing over a sheep and a coin, how can you complain about a person's soul!!! How far you are from the heart of God!
3. *15:7*: ONE soul is of countless price! (1sheep; 1coin; 1son)

3. A Savior Rescues What is Lost

- A. A shepherd rescues a lost _____
1. 100 sheep would have least 2 to 3 shepherds, very valuable; but dumb and easily killed
2. 1 shepherd wd go after the lost sheep, until found! **notice* “until he finds it”, and “when”
3. *15:5,6* – once found, he rejoices! (has to carry it back on his neck, 75lb) **early Christ. symbol*
- B. A woman searches and finds her lost _____ – drachma, denarius; a day's wage; probably her dowry...
1. Not a cash society, bartered for goods; money was very valuable went a long way
2. *15:8*: small home, dirt floor, dim light – search carefully/urgently (*until she finds it, when...*)
- C. A loving Father finds and restores His lost _____ – Jews were in shame/honor culture
1. *15:11-16* – younger son, wants his share of estate, basically, Father, I wish you were dead!
*out of birth order, liquidates father's assets, to Gentile country, squanders it, horrendous
*this was awful shame, dishonor and hate to the father
2. The famine – people eat garbage, roadkill, own sandals, lives w/ pigs – *notice degradation!*
3. *15:17-19* – he comes to his senses, sees himself and the Father in truth (kind, generous, love)
*sees his sin against God and others; sinned against heaven – literally my sins are as high as the heavens; confessed specific sins (*vs.30*) **This is repentance!!! No excuses, desperation!*
*Jesus, John Baptist, Peter, Paul – always preached and called out specific sins!
4. *15:20-24* – he returns; father could legally beat him, make him a slave – *what did He do!!!!*
*father was out looking for son in village, seeking, *compassion*, ran and embraced him
*Honorable men don't run in this culture! *This is utterly shameful*, his response!
*He embraced son, to hold him, but also to absorb the beating from the villagers!!!
*Father had no concern about his honor, or shame cast on him because of compassion, mercy, Amazing Grace! *Lavish love and grace holds nothing back! **see verse 22-24!!!*

*Is the source of your joy, the same as heaven? As God? What will you do because of what He did for you?!