

# Parables of Jesus, part 8

## The Compassionate Father and his two Lost Sons

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The parable of the lost sons, lost sheep and lost coin, are all about God's persistent, passionate grace for his children.

It is actually a great mistake to think that this is a story about just the one son.

Luke 15:1-2

The term "*were all gathering*" conveys that the attraction of younger brothers to Jesus was an ongoing pattern in his ministry.

Who would these people be today?

So, let me ask you, who is this parable really directed towards?

*Luke 15:7*

*Luke 15:10*

*Let me ask you all, why would this be emphasized by Jesus in light of the context?*

*Luke 15:11-24*

*Luke 15:25-32*

"Jesus is not so much pleading with the immoral outsiders as he is with moral insiders. In reality, he wants to show them their blindness, narrowness, and self-righteousness and how these things are destroying them and destroying the lives of the people around them." - Tim Keller

Jesus is trying to speak to the elder brother types that it is their own self-righteousness and lack of love for others that is alienating them from God and others.

Jesus is trying to teach that both the irreligious and the religious can be spiritually lost; that both life paths are dead ends.

It is this religious superiority that leads the hearts of religious people to grow farther from the heart of God!

Generally speaking, religiously observant people were offended by Jesus, but those estranged from religious people were intrigued by Jesus and even attracted to him.

You see this over and over again with examples in the NT with Jesus. In every case where Jesus meets a religious person and an outcast, whether outcast sexually, racial, or political, it is the outcast who is the one who connects with Jesus and the elder brother-type does not.

The parable invites us to identify with all three characters.