



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 43: Don't Grumble While Heaven Rejoices - Luke 15:1-10 - September 14, 2025

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - The things I can remember vs. the things I forget & the extreme feelings associated with losing and finding your kids.

Joy should be the natural response of finding anything of value.

Luke 15 - 3 parables of Jesus targeting an audience made up of 2 distinct groups of people.

The Audience of Luke 15

1. "The *tax collectors and sinners* were drawing near to hear him" (v. 1)
 - Tax collectors - seen as dishonest thieves, viewed as outsiders to the covenant
 - Sinners - those with disreputable occupations and/or physical handicap
2. "The *Pharisees and the scribes* grumbled..." (v. 2)
 - The religious elite of the day, highly moral "law-keepers" who desired separation from the "sinners" of the day

REALITY: The Pharisees are another type of "sinner" - self-righteous hypocrites who will ultimately commit the greatest sin, crucifying the Son of God

The Gospel According to the Pharisees: "*This man receives sinners...*" (v. 2)

Parable #1 - A Lost Sheep

A highly committed shepherd leaves 99 sheep to find one lost sheep.

Sheep are notoriously slow, weak, and dumb. They are prone to wander and represent us well.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way" - Is. 53:6

The Shepherd, of course, is God - specifically, Jesus Christ

NOTE: The sheep are lost, not the shepherd. The shepherd is looking, not the sheep.

Salvation: The shepherd finds us and carries us home.

Result: **Rejoicing!** (v. 5, 6, 7)

Jesus... who for the joy set before him endured the cross... - Hebrews 12:2

Parable #2 - A Lost Coin

The woman is poor, the coin is worth a day's wages, and she is diligently looking for it.

Just like the first parable, when she finds it, there is **joy!** (v. 9, 10)

When a "sinner" is saved by Jesus, there is **rejoicing** in heaven!

Contrast this with the Pharisee's attitude - they were "**grumbling**" (v. 2)

We should not grumble about the things that God rejoices over!

"I tell you, there will be *more joy* in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who need no repentance." - Luke 15:7

God rejoices in the sinner who repents, not the self-righteous who cannot repent.

These parables are highlighting the difference in **religion** and **grace**.

No "sinner" is beyond the grace of Jesus.

He knows everything that we have done, and it is his JOY to offer grace and salvation to the lost sheep, the lost coin, and... the lost son(s).

Parable #3 - (Two) Lost Son(s) - NEXT WEEK



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What two groups of people make up the audience of Luke 15? How are they different? How are they the same?
2. Why are the Pharisees “grumbling”? How are they preaching the gospel without knowing it?
3. The two major words in the parables are “lost” and “rejoicing”. Those words don’t seem to go together, what does Luke mean to tell us by repeating these two words?
4. How does the parable of the lost sheep contradict common Christian phrasing such as “you need to find God”, and “God is waiting for you to choose him”?
5. What does Jesus mean to tell the “grumbling Pharisees” in his parables about “rejoicing”? How might we also grumble about things or people that make God happy?
6. What is the difference in religion and grace?