

Luke 5:27-32 “After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. ²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

LOST AND FOUND

Lost or sick = Rebellious, wayward, obstinate, indifferent, relying on yourself, a sinner.
Found or righteous = Walking with the Lord, humble, contrite.

Scribes: *Grammateus* — In the Bible, a man learned in the Mosaic law and in the sacred writings, an interpreter, teacher. Scribes examined the more difficult and subtle questions of the law; added to the Mosaic law decisions of various kinds thought to clarify its meaning and scope, and did this to the detriment of religion.

Tax collectors and sinners: *Telones* — Tax gatherer, collector of taxes or tolls, one employed by a publican or farmer general in the collection of taxes. The tax collectors were as a class, detested not only by the Jews, but by other nations also, both on account of their employment and of the harshness, greed, and deception, with which they did their job.

- ▶ I used to think righteous living had more to do with behavioral modification than heart transformation. Outward appearance of holiness was what mattered to me, rather than Spirit-filled change. I thought that if I tried to stop cussing as much and stop watching rated R movies, then that meant I was living righteously. While those are good and righteous works, the more I read the Bible, the more I learned that I had it backwards. Righteousness actually produces those works, not the other way around.



Called “righteous / just”	Verses
1. Noah	Genesis 6:9, Genesis 7:1
2. God	Ezra 9:15, Psalm 11:7, Psalm 129:4, Jeremiah 12:1, Lamentations 1:18, Dan 9:14
3. Daniel	Ezekiel 14:14
4. God The Father	John 17:25
5. Lot	2 Peter 2:8
6. Joseph Of Arimathea	Luke 23:50
7. Abel	Hebrews 11:4, Matthew 23:35, 1 John 3:12
8. Joseph	Matthew 1:19
9. Cornelius	Acts 10:22
10. John The Baptist	Mark 6:20
11. Zacharias	Luke 1:5-6
12. Elisabeth	Luke 1:5-6
13. Simeon	Luke 2:25

Righteousness — The understanding that on my own I am not, but through His grace and power He makes me so.

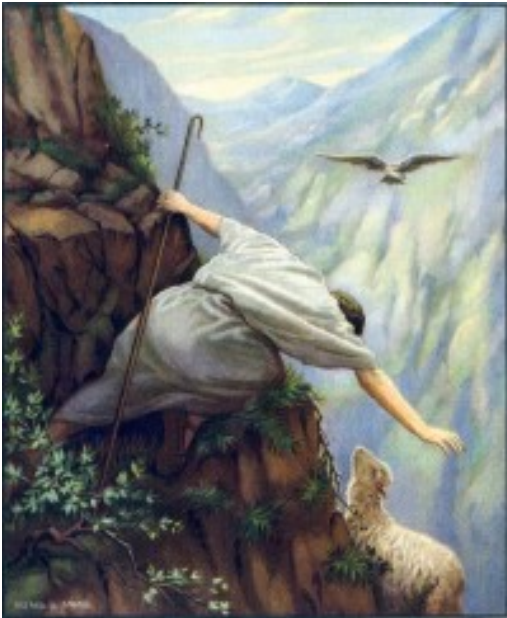
- ▶ What lengths does a person go to find something that was lost? It truly depends on what the value is of what is lost.
- ▶ In Luke chapter 15 we see Jesus being challenged by the leadership of Israel.

Luke 15 “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”³ So he told them this parable:

⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over



one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. and is found.”



⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents and is found.”

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “**Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son.** Treat me as one of your hired servants. ²⁰ And he





arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **I am no longer worthy to be called your son.**'

'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; **he was lost, and is found.**' **And they began to celebrate.**

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'



But he was angry and refused to go in.

His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has



devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Psalm 103:10-13 “He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.”

Isaiah 1:18-19 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.”

James 2:12-13 (NLT) “So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. ¹³ There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.”

James 2:12-13 (ESV) “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

