

## Side By Side - The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

Icebreaker: Have you ever lost anything of great value? Tell the story.

**The context – Jesus is spending time with “sinners”...**

*Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear Him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

**(Luke 15:1-2) – Jesus welcomes the “unlovables” of society. How well do you welcome them?**

**The parables – Jesus illustrates His mission...**

*Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ...Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’” (vv. 3-6, 8-9)*

🔍 **In each parable you see that...**

- **Something of great value is lost** – “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them...Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one.” (vv. 4a, 8a)

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way... (Isaiah 53:6) – Humanity, according to Jesus, is likened to sheep. What are some attributes of sheep?*

- **There is an all-out search to find it** – “Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?...Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?” (vv. 4b, 8b)

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10) – The sheep don’t look for God, instead God looks for the sheep. What does that reveal about the heart and intention of God?*

- **There is a great celebration when it’s found** – “And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep’ ...And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’” (vv. 5-6, 9)

**The point – Heaven’s joy at recovering the lost...**

*“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent...In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

**(vv. 7, 10) – Read these verses and answer honestly, do you act more like the sinner or the righteous in your approach to God?**

**The application – make Jesus’ mission your mission...**

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*When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." (Matt. 9:36-38) – whenever you encounter "lost crowds", what sentiment do you have towards them? Or, towards what "lost crowd" of people do you have the most compassion? Who are the lost sheep of your life? How can you go about regularly praying for them?*