

Luke chapters 15 and 16:

Chapter 15:

1. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7):

- Pharisees and scribes criticize Jesus for eating with sinners.
- Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep to illustrate God's joy over one sinner who repents.

2. The Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10):

- Jesus tells the parable of the lost coin to emphasize the value God places on every individual and the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.

3. The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32):

- Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son to illustrate God's unconditional love and forgiveness.
- The younger son asks for his inheritance, squanders it, and returns home repentant.
- The father welcomes him with open arms, causing jealousy and bitterness in the older son.
- The parable highlights the danger of self-righteousness and emphasizes the importance of repentance.

Chapter 16:

1. The Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-15):

- Jesus tells the parable of the shrewd manager to teach about wise stewardship and faithfulness.
- The manager acts shrewdly to secure his future and is commended by his master.
- Jesus contrasts the shrewdness of the manager with the disciples' call to be trustworthy stewards.

2. The Dangers of Wealth and the Kingdom of God (Luke 16:19-31):

- Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus to highlight the consequences of a life focused solely on material wealth.
- The rich man neglects Lazarus, a beggar, and ends up in torment, while Lazarus is comforted in Abraham's bosom.
- The passage emphasizes the importance of caring for the poor and marginalized and the eternal significance of our actions.

1. In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son. What do these parables teach us about God's love and forgiveness? How do they challenge our understanding of judgment and grace?

2. The Pharisees and scribes criticize Jesus for eating with sinners in Luke 15:1-2. Why do you think they had such a strong reaction? How does Jesus respond to their criticism through the parables?

3. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, both the younger son and the older son have different responses to their father's love and forgiveness. What can we learn from their attitudes and actions? How might we relate to each of these characters in our own lives?

4. In Luke 16, Jesus tells the Parable of the Shrewd Manager. What lessons can we draw from this parable about stewardship, integrity, and faithfulness? How can we apply these principles in our own lives?

5. The story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 raises important questions about the use of wealth and our responsibility towards the poor. What insights do you gain from this story? How does it challenge your perspective on material possessions and the pursuit of wealth?

6. How do the teachings and stories in Luke 15 and 16 connect with the overall theme of the Kingdom of God? What do these chapters reveal about God's heart for the lost, the marginalized, and the faithful followers of Christ?