

Title and Scripture Lost and Found Luke 15:1–10

Main Idea: Jesus explains why he spends time with sinners through two parables. His intent is not approval of sin but rescue. He seeks the lost because the stakes are eternal and heaven rejoices when one repents.

Point 1: Jesus builds relationships with unlikely people to bring them back to God.

- Luke 15:4–5 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he 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.”
 - Jesus spent time with tax collectors, sinners, fishermen, prostitutes, and the poor. His purpose was not to endorse sin but to bring people home to God.
 - He carries the sheep back to where it belongs.
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Point 2: The stakes for the lost are real and eternal.

- Luke 15:7 “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.”
 - Luke 15:8–9 “Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she 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.’”
 - A sheep alone is in danger. A missing coin has value to its owner. In the same way, a person apart from God is in danger now and faces eternal separation. Jesus goes because the stakes are high.
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Point 3: Jesus is the Chief Shepherd — he saves, not us.

- Luke 15:10 “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
 - Believers are called to be intentional in relationships, but only Jesus can save. We point people to him, but he is the one who brings the sheep home.
 - Like seed scattered (Mark 4), God alone gives the growth.
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Reflection: Luke 15 shows Jesus’ heart. He is not content to write anyone off. He seeks the lost one, carries them home, and heaven rejoices when they repent. How can you build intentional relationships and be a thermostat, changing the temperature and leading them to the one who can save, Jesus?

Devotion 1 – Jesus Seeks the Lost

Scripture Luke 15:4–5 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he 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.”

Reflection Jesus shows us his heart for the lost by telling of the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. He is not indifferent to those who wander. Each sheep matters, and the shepherd does the heavy lifting to bring it home. In the same way, Jesus pursued us when we were far from God.

Challenge Remember when you were the lost sheep. Take time today to thank Jesus that he carried you back, and pray for someone you know who still needs to be found.

Devotion 2 – The Stakes are High

Scripture Luke 15:7 “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.”

Reflection The parables of the sheep and the coin remind us that being lost from God is not a small matter. A sheep alone is vulnerable, and a missing coin still has value. Jesus makes clear that eternity is on the line. That is why heaven celebrates when even one sinner repents — the lost have been rescued from destruction and welcomed home.

Challenge Live today with the awareness that the people around you are eternal souls. Ask God to help you see others with the same urgency and value that Jesus does.

Devotion 3 – Be a Thermostat, Not a Thermometer

Scripture Luke 15:10 “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Reflection Jesus spent time with tax collectors, sinners, and the broken, but he never compromised truth. He set the tone instead of simply reflecting the culture. That is the difference between a thermostat and a thermometer. A thermostat changes the environment; a thermometer only reports it. As followers of Christ, we are called to build intentional relationships where our presence and witness set the spiritual temperature toward Jesus.

Challenge Think of one place you are regularly present — work, school, a team, or a friend group. Ask God to help you live there as a thermostat, gently shifting the environment toward Christ through your words, actions, and love.