

Lifeline

Jesus is Our Savior from Heartlessness

Luke 15:1-32

Main Idea: Jesus offers a Lifeline out of Heartlessness by Displaying the Heart of God

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them. So he told them this parable: “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? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 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.’ 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. 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? 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.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. 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! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ 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. 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.’ But the father said to his servants, bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 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, 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. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Luke 15:1-32

I. The Attractiveness of Jesus – Vs. 1-2

“But the Pharisees & the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat & drink with tax collectors & sinners?” **Luke 5:30**

“Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.’” **Luke 7:39**

“And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” **Luke 19:7**

“And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5:31-32

II. The Mission of God – Vs. 3-10

“For the Son of Man came to seek & to save the lost.” **Luke 19:10**

“These parables are, in fact, calls for the ‘righteous’ to repent by sharing God’s joy in the salvation of ‘sinners.’ **Robert H. Stein**

III. The Love of the Father – Vs. 11-32

• A Man’s Rebellion

“All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” **Isaiah 53:6**

• A Man’s Downfall

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you are willing to pay.”

Evangelist Freddy Gage

• A Man’s Awareness

“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?” **Romans 2:4**

• A Father’s Sorrow

“He (Jesus) looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart...” **Mark 3:5a**

• A Father’s Affection

“Jesus has the father run to his son in order to show God’s love, joy & eagerness to receive outcasts.” **Robert H. Stein**

• A Father’s Celebration

“This is the Parable of the Prodigal God, who is infinite. He is a consuming fire! But when we turn to him, he is a God who comes running – to lavish his love upon us! This is the gospel – the good news of a prodigal God who rushes to meet sinners with his love!”

Kent Hughes

• **A Religious Man’s Dilemma:** Consumed with pride for his own self-righteousness, he refused to acknowledge his younger brother’s return.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- 1001 Humorous Illustrations – Michael Hodgins (1994)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- NAC: Luke – R.H. Stein (1992)
- The Gospel of Luke – William Barclay (1975)
- Luke for Everyone – N.T. Wright (2004)
- Holman Commentary: Luke – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- Luke: That You May Know the Truth – Kent Hughes (1998)

- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)