

## Meeting Two

### The Saving Love of the Triune God

#### Luke 15:1-32

- 1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were drawing near to Him to hear Him.
- 2 And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured among themselves, saying, This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.
- 3 And He told them this parable, saying,
- 4 Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?
- 5 And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- 6 And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.
- 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.
- 8 Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one silver coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek carefully until she finds it?
- 9 And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I lost.
- 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner repenting.
- 11 And He said, A certain man had two sons.
- 12 And the younger of them said to the father, Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me. And he distributed to them his living.
- 13 And not many days after, the younger son, having gathered everything together, went abroad to a distant country and there squandered his estate by living dissolutely.
- 14 And when he had spent all, a severe famine occurred throughout that country, and he began to be in want.
- 15 And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed hogs.
- 16 And he longed to be satisfied with the carob pods which the hogs were eating, and no one gave him anything.
- 17 But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!
- 18 I will rise up 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; make me like one of your hired servants.
- 20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.
- 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.
- 22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.
- 23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

- 24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.
- 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 calling to him one of the servants, he inquired what these things might be.
- 27 And he said to him, Your brother has come, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has received him back healthy.
- 28 But he became angry and was not willing to enter. And his father came out and entreated him.
- 29 But he answered and said to his father, Behold, so many years I have been slaving for you and have never neglected a command of yours, and you have never given me a goat that I might be merry with my friends;
- 30 But when this son of yours came, who devoured your living with harlots, you slaughtered for him the fattened calf.
- 31 And he said to him, Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
- 32 But we had to be merry and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life, and he was lost and has been found.

**Ephesians 1:5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

**Galatians 1:15-16a**

- 15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
- 16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles...

**1 Timothy 1:15** Faithful is the word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost.

**John 10:10**

- 10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- 11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**Ezekiel 34:11** For thus says the Lord Jehovah, I Myself, even I, will search for My sheep and seek them out.

**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**Psalms 119:130** The opening of Your words gives light, imparting understanding to the simple.

**John 16:7-8**

- 7 But I tell you the truth, It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
- 8 And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment.

**1 Peter 1:2-3**

- 2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Ephesians 2:18** For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.

**1 Corinthians 1:30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

- 13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- 14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

**Exodus 12:11** And this is how you shall eat it: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is Jehovah's passover.

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**Ephesians 2:1, 4-5**

- 1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,
- 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- 5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

**Colossians 2:13** And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses.

**1 Timothy 3:15** But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

**John 14:1-2**

- 1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me.
- 2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

**Romans 10:3-14**

- 3 For because they were ignorant of God's righteousness and sought to establish their own righteousness, they were not subject to the righteousness of God.
- 4 For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to everyone who believes.

- 5 For Moses writes concerning the righteousness which is out of the law: "The man who does them shall live by them."  
 6 But the righteousness which is out of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?" that is, to bring Christ down;  
 7 Or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.  
 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of the faith which we proclaim,  
 9 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;  
 10 For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation.  
 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on Him shall not be put to shame."  
 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;  
 13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
 14 How then shall they call upon Him into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe into Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims Him?

**John 15:5, 11**

- 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.  
 11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.

**Acts 13:52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**1 Thessalonians 2:20** For you are our glory and joy.

**1 John 1:3-4**

- 3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.  
 4 And these things we write that our joy may be made full.

**Excerpts from the Ministry:**

**THE TRINITY DEPICTED IN  
THREE PARABLES**

Luke 15:1 and 2 say, "Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were drawing near to Him to hear Him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling, saying, This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." The tax collectors and

sinners were grateful to the Man-Savior and drew near to Him. But the religious people were bothered by this and grumbled that the Lord welcomed sinners and ate with them. It was due to this grumbling that the Lord told the three parables in chapter fifteen (v. 3).

In answering the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes who condemned the Savior for eating with the sinners, He spoke three

parables unveiling and depicting how the Divine Trinity works to bring sinners back through the Son by the Spirit to the Father. The Son came in His humanity as the Shepherd to find the sinner as a lost sheep and bring it back home (vv. 4-7). The Spirit seeks the sinner as a woman seeks carefully one lost coin until she finds it (vv. 8-10). And the Father receives the repenting and returned sinner as a certain man receives his prodigal son (vv. 11-32). The entire Divine Trinity treasures the sinner and participates in bringing him back to God. All three parables emphasize the love of the Divine Trinity more than the fallen condition and repentance of the penitent sinner. The divine love is fully expressed in the Son's tender care as the good Shepherd, in the Spirit's fine seeking as the treasure lover, and in the Father's warm receiving as a loving father.

When I was young I heard much concerning how the loving father received the prodigal son. I also heard about the good shepherd. But it was not pointed out to me that in these three parables we can see the Trinity, with each parable referring to one of the Trinity. Clearly, the shepherd refers to the Son, the woman refers to the Spirit, and the father refers to the heavenly Father. Therefore, in these parables the Three of the Trinity are clearly depicted.

The sequence of the Trinity in Luke 15 is different from that in Matthew 28:19. In Matthew 28:19 the sequence is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But in Luke we first have the Son as the shepherd, then the Spirit as the woman, and finally the Father as the father receiving his returned son. Therefore, in Luke 15 the sequence begins with the Son, goes to the Spirit, and leads to the Father. This sequence is exactly the same as that in Ephesians 2:18: "For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father." According to this verse, our access first is in the Son and then through the Spirit. Through the Son

and in the Spirit we have access unto the Father. This is our access into the Triune God, access through the Son, in the Spirit, and unto the Father.

It is important for us to understand why the Son is mentioned first in Luke 15. The reason the Son is first is that in God's salvation the One who comes, practically speaking, is the Son. The Son comes to accomplish redemption, which is the first need, because redemption is the foundation of our salvation. The redemption accomplished by Christ's death on the cross is the base of God's salvation. Once this foundation has been laid, we can build upon it. In order to accomplish redemption, the Son, portrayed in Luke 15 as the good shepherd, comes first.

Now that the Son has accomplished redemption, the Spirit comes to find us. The book of Acts indicates this. In the Gospels the Son came to accomplish redemption. After the accomplishment of redemption by the Son, we see from the book of Acts that the Spirit comes to seek us and find us. Because of the Spirit's finding of us, we repent and come back to God the Father. Then, according to the third parable in Luke 15, the Father is waiting for us to come back.

What a wonderful sequence we have in Luke 15! The sequence here is not according to Persons of the Trinity; the sequence is according to the steps of God's salvation, the salvation based on Christ's redemption. God's salvation is by the Son, through the Spirit, and unto the Father. (*Life-study of Luke*, msg. 15)