

SERMON NOTES

Joy Is Finding
Luke 15:1-10

Have you ever been criticized? Jesus was criticized by the Pharisees and the Scribes for simply caring for those who were far from God. In response, He told three parables to illustrate His extravagant grace toward sinners and His joy in their salvation.

Key thought: We must show extravagant grace to sinners and rejoice greatly when they are saved from their sin.

Your view of people reveals much about your spiritual condition.

Luke 15:2 – “The man receives sinners”

The religious leaders looked upon the people who were far from God with disdain. Jesus saw them with eyes of compassion. Commenting on *Luke 15:2*, Spurgeon said...

“I believe that our Savior could not have wished to have had a sentence uttered concerning Him more evidently true or more thoroughly consistent with His sacred commission. It is the exact portrait of His Character. He is the man who ‘receives sinners.’ Many a true word has been spoken in jest and many a true word has been spoken in slander.”

Jesus saw what these “sinners” really were: lost sheep who needed a shepherd; lost coins that had value and needed to be put into circulation; lost sons who needed to be in fellowship with the Father.^[1]

People without Jesus are sinners, they are lost!

Lost – 4 (2x), 6, 8, 9, 24, 32 (7x in this passage)

The word lost means: ruined, destroyed, not accomplishing their purpose (destroy, perish, lose).

Psalm 9:17 (NASB95) “The wicked will return to hell, Even all the nations who forget God.”

John 3:36 (NASB95) “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Revelation 20:15 (NASB95) “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

- Condition
- Destination

Jesus shows extravagant grace to sinners who are lost!

Luke 19:10 (NASB95) “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Sees the lost

Matthew 23:37 (NASB95) “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”

^[1] Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 183). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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Ezekiel 34:11 (NASB95) “For thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.’”

- Cares for the lost (cross)

Romans 5:8 (NASB95) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Here is God’s heart toward lost humanity. In Ezekiel 33:11, He says, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.” The Bible also tells us that God is patient and doesn’t want anyone to perish (see 2 Peter 3:9). So God wants everyone to repent. You see, God is compassionate. He longs for fellowship with humanity, for friendship with us. Jesus described God as a shepherd looking for a lost sheep (see Luke 15). That is God’s heart toward all of us.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NASB95) “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

1 John 4:19 (NASB95) “We love, because He first loved us.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NASB95) “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Campbell Morgan once said, “We should be far more in earnest in our missionary work if we could get into the suffering heart of God.”

- Seeks the lost (Luke 19:10)

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- Saves the lost

Acts 16:30–31 (NASB95) “And after he brought them out, he said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

Jesus finds great joy when the lost are found! (verses 7,10)

Rejoice – 5, 6, 9, 32 (4x)

Celebrate – 24, 25 (2x)

Take Away:

Resources to help you: WhitesburgBaptist.org/One

1. Identify 1 person
2. Pray for them
3. Invite them to church
4. Share the gospel with them