

“From Disconnected to Connected”

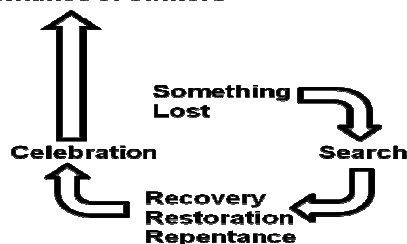
Luke 15: The Parable of the Lost Sheep and Coin

^{15:1} Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming to hear him. ^{15:2} But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

^{15:3} So Jesus told them this parable: ^{15:4} “Which one of you, if he has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go look for the one that is lost until he finds it? ^{15:5} Then when he has found it, he places it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ^{15:6} Returning home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, telling them, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ^{15:7} I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

^{15:8} “Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search thoroughly until she finds it? ^{15:9} Then 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.’ ^{15:10} In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.”

Heavenly Rejoicing at Repentance of Sinners



Day by Day in the Word

The biblical pattern for growth consists of: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness. Let’s allow the Spirit to illumine and empower us as we study God’s Word and seek to become more and more like Jesus.

1. Read Luke 15:1-2. What are the characteristics of “tax collectors and sinners”? Why would they come to Jesus? What are the characteristics of the “Pharisees”? Why would they grumble against Jesus? What was Jesus doing that irritated them?
2. Which group do you tend to identify with? Consider whether you can identify with both of them depending on the area of your life.
3. Read Luke 15:3-10. Who are the lost sheep and the lost coin? Who is the shepherd and the woman? What do they do? Describe this in detail. What happens when the sheep and coin are found? Note the response of the individual and the invitation for the community to respond with them.
4. What is the response in heaven and why?
5. This whole story is about “eating with sinners” and why Jesus does that. So, why does he?
6. In what way can you make this a pattern in your life? What would it look like?
7. How are you at celebrating? What changes would need to come about in your life for you to begin celebrating what God is doing in the lives of people?
8. If you find yourself among the tax collectors and sinners today and God is out looking for you, consider this:
 - God, I am in need; I recognize that I’m lost.
 - God, I trust in your solution of Jesus dying for me.
 - God, I accept your free gift of forgiveness.
 - God, I thank you.