

## The Lost

Luke 15

## The Lost Sheep

Verses 3-7

### Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

- Thoughtlessness.
  - The figure of the shepherd, sheep and sheepfold found many times in the scriptures. Isaiah 53:6ff; John 10:1ff; Acts 20:28; etc.
  - Hebrews 2:1. cf. Matthew 9: 36, a picture of a multitude that had no real purpose in life.

### Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

- Absorption in other matters.
  - Life. Luke 14:15ff

### Lost Through Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Verses 3-7

- Lack of knowledge, spiritual interest and diligence.
  - "Give diligence" 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:11
  - "Take heed" cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 3:12
  - Failure to do this means we are lost. cf. Hosea 4:6; Acts 17:30

### Lost Through Uselessness – The Lost Coin. Verses 8-10

- This coin was of no value because it was "out of circulation."
  - Many have changed from useful vessels to into useless vessels, from vessels of honor to vessels of dishonor. (2 Timothy 2:20)
  - Uselessness means: loss of zeal for the Lord, loss of concern for others, and loss of influence. (Matthew 5:13-14)
  - The useless member is ... the one who has quit. (Luke 9:62)

## The Prodigal Son

Verses 11-24

### Lost Through Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24

- The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.
  - He willfully asked for his inheritance.
  - He willfully went into the far country.
  - He willfully wasted his substance with riotous living.

### Lost Through Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Verses 11-24

- The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.
  - Exaltation of my will and a desecration of God's will.  
Romans 1:18ff; Hebrews 10:26ff
  - Rebellion and defiance of authority.  
Absalom – 2 Samuel 15-18

## The Elder Brother

Verses 25-32

### Lost Through Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Verses 25-32

#### Self Commendation –

- He was never guilty of the immoralities of his brother.
    - He had stayed in his father's house.
    - He had served his father. ***"Lo, these many years do I serve thee."***
    - Guilty of Pride, Arrogance, Self-righteous.
- "I never transgressed a commandment, of thine."***

### Lost Through Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Verses 25-32

#### Self Commendation –

- Lost because of his wrong attitude toward his brother. ***"This THY son" not "This MY brother."***
- He was angry, jealous and had no sympathy for his brother.
- The father recognizes the elder son's faithfulness (***"you are always with me"***)
- He reassures the son that the remaining inheritance is his (***"all that I have is yours"***)

**Lost Through Bitterness –  
The Elder Brother. Verses 25-32**

- Bitterness to be put away. Ephesians 4:32ff
- Love for brethren is abundantly and plainly taught. John 13:34
- The elder brother represents the Pharisees and scribes (Luke 15:1) who stood condemned because they *"trusted in themselves that they were righteous; and set all others at nought"* (Luke 18:9).

**The Lost**

**The Lost Sheep – Careless. Verses 3-7**

**The Lost Coin – Useless. Verses 8-10**

**The Prodigal Son – Willful. Verses 11-24**

**The Elder Brother – Bitter. Verses 25-32**