

## THE LOST SON FOUND

November 29, 2015

Luke 15:1-32

**“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10**

This chapter has a message for everyone in every state of life. It rebukes those who are self-righteous, demonstrating the arrogance and folly of their pride. It warns those who are unrighteous, showing that they travel a dead-end street where disaster awaits every traveler. It comforts those who've taken that path, calling them unto repentance as the only escape from their plight, the only path to restoration.

It reveals the true natures of God and of man. God is merciful. Man is either self-righteous or blatantly unrighteous – both being states of unrighteousness. Thus man has nothing to offer to God in exchange for His favor, but God has everything man needs, offered freely to him.

Ponder these thoughts which are embedded in the passage:

1. The condition of “publicans and sinners” (i.e., the lost sheep, lost coin, lost son).

Lost, loved, valued, sought, the cause of great joy when found

2. The condition of “Pharisees and scribes:” murmuring (i.e., the elder brother).

Self-righteous, proud, “despised others” (Luke 18:9) – that which brought rejoicing in the presence angels, caused them to murmur.

3. Money and unrestrained indulgence do not satisfy. They destroy. The pleasures of sin are temporary. The devastation of sin is permanent and profound.

\* “Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance” (Proverbs 29:3).

\* “For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell” (Proverbs 5:3-5).

\* “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

Nor do money and a disciplined life satisfy. Consider “the rich, young ruler:”

“The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions” (Matthew 19:20-22).

The lost son suffered:

Humiliation: <sup>1</sup> pagan servitude, <sup>2</sup> poverty, <sup>3</sup> disgrace: feeding pigs, <sup>4</sup> dismissal: no one cared

Hunger

Homesickness

Although delivered from his folly, the prodigal son had wasted his inheritance, and could never get it back.

(over)

Sin will always take you further than you want to go, and cost you more than you want to pay. Sin will always, ultimately produce the opposite of that which is intended and sought.

4. Without repentance, all hope is gone.

“And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:2-5).

5. God delights in mercy

- \* “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee” (Psalm 86:5).
- \* “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth” (Psalm 86:15).
- \* “For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations” (Psalm 100:5).
- \* “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy” (Psalm 103:8).
- \* “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).
- \* “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy” (Micah 7:18).
- \* “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)” (Ephesians 2:4, 5).
- \* “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

6. There is joy in the presence of angels over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety-nine “just persons, which need no repentance.” In fact, there are no just persons, which need no repentance. Everyone needs repentance.

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:10-12).

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30, 31).