

The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

Introduction – three parables: One central message

“All the tax collectors and sinners were drawing near to Him” (v.1)

Pharisees/Scribes complain “this man receives sinners & eats with them”

Jesus gives three parables – to illustrate Pharisees’ hardness & God’s love

First two parables: how Pharisees should have felt over sinners repenting

- i. The shepherd finding his lost sheep
- ii. Woman finding her silver coin

Third parable: joy the Father feels over one returning, repenting sinner

Pharisees could relate: V.1 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep”

I. The Loss (v.4)

“ if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

- The focus here is not the lost sinner but the love of God for the sinner
- That which belonged to God has been lost & God is seeking it out
- Man formed in the image of God; God desires his fellowship (Hos 11:8)

II. The Search and Recovery (v.4-5a)

- Who are the 99, the just persons whom Jesus leaves to find the sinner?
- Jesus says of these 99 just person they need no repentance: Pharisees???
- Are they the angels, Jesus left heaven to recover sinners (2 Cor 8: 9)

III. The Joy over the Recovery of that which had been Lost (vv.6-7)

- The joy of being found cannot be compared to the joy of coming home
- Still there’s more joy over one sinner being found than the 99 in heaven