

In Step  
with the   
Master  
Teacher

# **Three Parables on lostness (Luke 15)**

## **The Setting for the parables – Luke 15:1-2**

**“Now the tax collectors and ‘sinners’ were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’”**

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- An effort to discredit Jesus based on his table companions**
- Guilt by association or appearance**

# **Parables on lostness (Luke 15)**

- 1. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)**
- 2. The Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)**
- 3. The Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)**

## **Stories of Loss, Recovery, Celebration**

**An invitation to join the celebration  
instead of charging Jesus with wrong.**

**Luke 19:10** – “For the Son of Man came to  
seek and to save the lost.”

# **Emphasis on Divine Celebration**

## **Luke 15:7**

**“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”**

## **Luke 15:10**

**“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**

## **Luke 15:22-24**

**"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."**

# **Matthew 18 and Luke 15**

- **The parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18 “is possibly the most forceful expression of how Christians should live” (Klyne Snodgrass).**
- **The parables of lostness (particularly the lost son) are possibly the most forceful expression of God’s disposition toward repentant sinners -- of God’s eager and joyful acceptance of them.**

# Divine necessity - ἔδει

- **Matthew 18:33** – The King said, “Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?”
- **Luke 15:32** – “But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”
- **Mercy and Celebration** are exemplified by God and therefore understood as *obviously* obligatory for His people.

**The Prodigal son  
or  
The  
compassionate  
Father  
and  
his two lost sons**



**Three main characters** – Luke 15:11 -  
Jesus continued: "There was a man who  
had two sons.

**1. The younger son (Luke 15:12-20a)**

**1. The Father (Luke 15:20b-24)**

**1. The older son (Luke 15:25-32)**