

Lost and Found

(Luke 15)

I. The Setting, 1

Tax collectors

- Bid to collect taxes for Rome
- Added surcharge (their pay)
- ‘Traitors’
- BUT . . .
 - They came to John, Lk.3:12-13
 - They came to Jesus, Lk.5:27...; 7:29-30, 34

Why did tax collectors come to Jesus?

1. His teaching. Mt.7:28-29; 13:54
2. His signs. Jn.3:2
3. His care. Lk.19:10
4. His forgiveness. Lk.7
5. His kindness. Lk.7
6. His hope. Lk.10:24

I. The Setting, 1

II. The Slanderers, 2

Slanderers...

- **Pharisees:** religious, political party. 6000+
- **Scribes:** not 'copyists' but experts in law of Moses and traditional decrees of elders.
- **Character –**
 1. **Liars,** 15:2. Cf. 18:13.
 2. **Hypocrites** (Mt.23.
 3. **Hypercritical** (Jesus could do no right)
 4. **Jealous.** Crowds leave them to follow Him
 5. **Proud.** He exposes their lies / ignorance

I. The Setting, 1

II. The Slanderers, 2

III. **The Story**, 3-32

Parables

1. Stick in the mind.
2. Expose the heart.

“The greatest short story in the world”

Parables

1. **Sheep** (3-7): one of 100 lost
2. **Silver** (8-10): one of 10 lost
3. **Sons** (11-24): one of 2 lost (?)

Parable – the lost son, 11-24

11-12: younger can't wait; rude

13: freedom. Took 'all'

14: spent all; famine.

15: away from home: freedom - bondage.

16: pigs better off than he is.

17: came to himself

18-19: his plan

20: his father

21-23: humble confession

24: reason

Parable – the older brother, 25-32

Lost at home (false sense of security)

Lk.7:39; 18:9

25: in field (worker); drew near...

26: asked servant; did not go in...

27: ‘your brother came...’

28: anger, pouting...

29: ‘I served / never transgressed / you never’

30: ‘this son of yours...’

Parable – the father, 31-32

Tries to reason with him

Last word:

- You are always with me
 - All I have is yours
 - Necessary to rejoice ... *your brother*
1. What father would treat lost son as older brother wants?
 2. Should we not celebrate those who were dead but now live?
 3. Is he wronged because brother is blessed?

Concluding Lessons –

1. “Parable of prodigal son” / older brother / loving Father.
2. 1-2: Jews leave false impressions.
3. Two lost sons: ¹unrighteous; ²self-righteous
4. 11-24: disasters bring out best in some, worst in others.
5. 14: sin is a waste. Ro.1:21; Ro.6:6
6. 17-20: before we can go to God, we must first come to ourselves.

Concluding Lessons –

7. “Lost” – 19:10, reason for Jesus coming

Before: prodigal wanted . . .

1. freedom; he became a slave
2. feasting; he nearly starved
3. fun; he found sorrow

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After: prodigal wanted . . .

1. servant; restored as son
2. bread; received a banquet
3. forgiveness; received fellowship

Concluding Lessons –

8. 25-31: wrong attitude toward others can rob us of salvation.
9. 30: older brother has peculiar blindness: sees brother's sins, not his own.
10. 32: God's invitation is still open.
11. We too can go home...
 - a. I have sinned.
 - b. I am unworthy.
 - c. Make me a day laborer.