

International Conversation Cafe

New Testament: Lost and Found, Luke 15

Most of us have had the unfortunate experience of losing something important: keys, checkbook, library book, or important papers. Tell how you felt when you lost something valuable and how you felt when you found it.

Jesus told the following stories about things that were lost. Notice who was in the crowd listening to the stories. The first story was about a lost sheep.

Luke 15

1 The tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were whispering among themselves. They said, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them a story. **4** He said, "Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won't he leave the 99 in the open country? Won't he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? **5** When he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders **6** and go home. Then he will call his friends and neighbors together. He will say, 'Be joyful with me. I have found my lost sheep.'

7 "I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin. Yes, there will be more joy than for 99 godly people who do not need to turn away from their sins.

Tell what you notice in this painting.

How do you think the themes of the painting fit with the story?

Is there anything that is puzzling about the painting?



He Qi. The Shepherd rescuing the lost sheep.
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Discussion Thoughts

1. Name the two groups of people listening to Jesus.
2. What was the complaint the Pharisees had about Jesus?
3. If the sheep in the story are people, who do you think the shepherd is?
4. Why do you think the sheep wandered?
5. How do people wander away from God?
6. What is God's attitude towards people who turn to him?
7. How does this influence your attitude toward God?
8. Why do you think Jesus told this story to the Pharisees, the powerful ruling class of Jews?

The next story Jesus told was about another lost item, a coin.

Luke 15

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. She will light a lamp and sweep the house. She will search carefully until she finds the coin. **9** And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors together. She will say, 'Be joyful with me. I have found my lost coin.'

10 "I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is joy in heaven over one sinner who turns away from sin."

1. Retell the story in your own words.
2. How does the coin get lost?
3. Why do you think Jesus told this story?
4. Describe God's attitude toward people who turn from their sin.
5. How does God's attitude of joy affect your attitude toward God?



Fetti Domenico. 1618-22. Oil on wood. 55x44 cm.
Genaldegalerie, Alte Meister