

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 15

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 15 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Luke 15:1-2

As a reminder, what is Jesus resolutely doing since 9:51? Going to _____. Why?

Last week we learned that when you “eat with” someone in that culture, it means you have a _____ with that person. Who is it the Pharisees and teachers of the law are muttering about in Luke 15:1-2 and why?

Why do you think they are so upset about Jesus being with tax collectors?

Who do you think they are they calling “sinners”?

You ready for this? Buckle up! OK, The Pharisees taught, “There is joy before God when those who provoke Him perish from the world.”* (Please note: this **is NOT in the Bible**; it is just something they came up with.) Yes, that’s an actual quote of what they were teaching. They truly believed that God was glad when sinners died. Knowing they thought this, how do you imagine the Pharisees treated tax collectors and sinners?

The Pharisees and teachers of the law have heard Jesus announce that the kingdom of God is here. Part of that means that how Jesus treats sinners on earth is showing how God treats sinners in heaven. How was Jesus treating tax collectors and sinners? Does this go along with what they have been teaching or is he doing the exact opposite?

If you were considered a “sinner” back then, how would you feel when you heard Jesus’ parables?

Luke 15 (from what you remember when you read it the first 2 times)

What are three things all 3 parables share?

1.

2.

3.

Luke 15:3-7

“So Jesus told them a parable.” Why do you think Jesus tells them parables? Why doesn’t he just start scolding them? If you’re still thinking about an answer to this, I’ll give you a chance to answer this same question at the end.

Jesus starts this parable with “Suppose _____ _____...” He could have said, “A shepherd had 100 sheep and lost one.” Why did he start the parable the way he did?

Why would Jesus represent a sinner with a lost sheep?

How would you describe the way the shepherd looks for his lost sheep? What in the story makes you think this?

How would you describe the way the shepherd gets his lost sheep home? What in the story makes you think this?

How would you say the shepherd feels toward his lost sheep? Why?

What repeated word would surprise Jesus’ hearers most? (You will actually find it in 3 different forms in vv 5-7.)

Why would Jesus repeat this word? (Remember who was muttering at the beginning of this chapter and what they are miffed about.)

Luke 15:8-10

How would you describe the woman’s search?

Is the same word repeated? If so, how many times have we heard it in ch 15 so far?

Luke 15:11-32

Which character is in almost every verse of this parable? If he is the main character, could you think of a different name for this parable besides the “Parable of the Lost Son”?

When does a son (or daughter) get their inheritance? Answer: when their parents have _____. Think about it. What is the younger son saying when he asks for his inheritance early?

In that culture at that time, your wealth was not in a bank or in cash hidden in a safe place. It was in your land, crops, house, and livestock. For the father to give his son his inheritance in a way he could take it with him, what would he have to do? How many people in his town would know he’d done it? Would that bring the father honor or dishonor?

Why do you think it took so long for the younger son to go back?

List the words Jesus used to describe how the father celebrates his son’s return and how many times he used each of them: (i.e. music – 1)

How many different words did you come up with? _____ How many times were they used in total _____? Why did Jesus use SO many words to paint this picture for his hearers?

Who else dishonors the father? How does the father treat that person?

Here’s that question again. “Then Jesus told them a parable.” (v. 3) Why do you think Jesus tells them parables? Why doesn’t he just scold them? Hint: who is the older son?

*Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah. The Three Parables of the Gospel: of the Recovery of the Lost. Bible Hub app.* Also quoted by Dr. James Tour