

The Lost Son
Lesson #26
Luke 15:8-32

Background

1. This lesson concludes Jesus' teaching on "Lost Things" with the parable known best as the "Prodigal Son." Review quickly what was lost in the first two parables. (Luke 15:4a & 8a)
2. How did the owners view their losses? (Luke 15:4b & 8b)
3. What was their attitude when they found what was lost? (Luke 15:5, 6 & 9)

Parable #3 - Luke 15:11-31

4. After clearly setting the stage, Jesus drove his point home with a third parable about "Lost Things." Read the whole parable in Luke 15:11-31. The main characters of this parable are a father and his two sons. What did the younger son ask the father? (Luke 15:12a)
5. What did the father do about that request? (Luke 15:12b)
6. So the younger son headed off on a journey. Using Luke 15:13 & 14:
 - Where did he go?
 - What did he do while he was there?
 - How did his problem arise?

- What do you think his “need” was?
7. How did he solve this problem? (Luke 15:15)
 8. Did that work? (Luke 15:16)
 9. “When he came to his senses ...” what did he finally realize? (Luke 15:17)
 10. The younger son had finally “hit bottom” and began to take a look at what he had left with a whole new perspective. What did he decide to do? (Luke 15:18-19)
 11. What do you think he was expecting when he returned home?
 12. He was willing to take that risk and returned to his father. Verse 20 says, “*But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him...*” What does that tell you about the father?
 13. What was the father’s attitude towards his “lost” son? (Luke 15:20b)
 14. How did the father show it? (Luke 15:20c)
 15. The younger son delivered the speech he had prepared and practiced over the long walk home. “*Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.*” His son had changed. No longer was he the defiant, arrogant young man who

had gone away. Now he was humble and repentant. How did the father respond to his son? (Luke. 15:22 & 23)

16. Why did the father say he did this? (Luke 15:24)
17. As the celebration was about to begin, the older son walked in. What had he been doing? (Lk. 15:25a)
18. He heard the music and dancing so called over a servant to find out what the celebration was for. When he was told it was to celebrate the return of his younger brother and that his father had killed the fattened calf for a feast, what was his response? (Lk. 15:28a)
19. Word got back to the father and he went to meet his older son. Using Luke 15:28-30:
 - What did the father do?
 - What do you think the father was hoping for on this joyous occasion?
 - Why did the older son refuse to join the celebration?
20. How did the father answer his older son's charges? (Lk. 15:31)
21. Using Luke 15:32:
 - What attitude did he want his older son to have?
 - Why?

22. Go back and review these last three parables of "Lost Things." Thinking about the audience that Jesus was speaking to, who do you think he was referring to in this last parable as:
- The younger son

 - The older son

 - The Father
23. What attitude did Jesus portray the Father as having when one who was lost was found? (Luke 15:7 & 10)
24. What do you think Jesus was saying to:
- The Pharisees and teachers of the law?

 - The tax collectors and sinners?
25. What is Jesus saying to you through these parables?

Our study year ends here but will resume with the final teachings of Jesus as he moves forward, led by the Holy Spirit, towards Jerusalem and enters into his week of Passion in "It is Finished".