

## LUKE 15 – LOST SHEEP, COIN, SON

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

<sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered,

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>4</sup>"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them.

Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

<sup>5</sup>And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup>and goes home.

Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one.

Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

<sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'

<sup>10</sup>In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

<sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.'

So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had,

set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

<sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

<sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

<sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

<sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

<sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

<sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him;

he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>"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.

<sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

<sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field.

When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

<sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

<sup>27</sup>'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup>"The older brother became angry and refused to go in.

So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father,

'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.

Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

<sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" <sup>31</sup>"

'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

<sup>32</sup>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.' "