

The Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son

The parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son are all found in Luke 15 in the Bible. These parables are told by Jesus to illustrate the joy that comes with repentance and God's extravagant love and mercy.

The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7): In this parable, a shepherd has a flock of 100 sheep, but one goes missing. The shepherd leaves the 99 sheep and goes in search of the lost one. When he finds it, he rejoices and calls his friends and neighbors to celebrate. This parable illustrates God's relentless pursuit of every individual, emphasizing the joy in heaven when one sinner repents.

Connection to God's salvation: God is portrayed as a loving and seeking shepherd who values each individual. The lost sheep represents the sinner, and the shepherd's joy upon finding it mirrors the joy in heaven when a sinner repents and turns to God.

The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10): A woman has ten silver coins, and she loses one. She searches diligently until she finds it and, like the shepherd, calls her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her. This parable underscores the value of each individual and the joy that comes when someone who is lost is found.

Connection to God's salvation: The lost coin represents the lost sinner, and the woman's joy upon finding it reflects the joy in heaven over one repentant sinner. It emphasizes God's active involvement in seeking and saving those who are lost.

The Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32): Also known as the Prodigal Son, this parable tells the story of a younger son who asks for his inheritance, squanders it in reckless living, and ends up in a desperate situation. When he comes to his senses and returns home, his father welcomes him with open arms and throws a feast. The older son, who stayed obedient, struggles with the father's extravagant grace.

Connection to God's salvation: The Lost Son represents the repentant sinner who, despite his reckless, is welcomed back into the loving embrace of God. The father's response illustrates God's forgiveness, grace, and the joy that comes with reconciliation.

