Sheep and Coin Parable

Gary Wilemon · Luke 15:1–10

INTRODUCTION

- One of the things that we always said about parables is that there's usually one primary purpose and meaning in a parable.
- In order to get that primary message, almost all the time you had to find the context into which the parable was being said.
- I want us to think about why these are being said, to whom they're being said.

1 What Man Among You? The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1–7

- Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near him to listen to him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them.
- If you understand what it means to be a shepherd, you're going to realize that exactly what this shepherd does is what you would do too.
- They just eat themselves lost, is what the guy said.
- I think what the Lord is trying to communicate here is this sense of urgency.

2 More Joy in Heaven Over One Sinner Who Repents

Luke 15:7

- It's just natural to have more rejoicing and enthusiasm over one who was in danger and now they're not in danger than the ones who were never in danger.
- Now, considering our context here, who were the 99? Pharisees and the scribes. They saw themselves as righteous. They saw themselves as not needing to repent.
- All of this is particularly ironic in view of the fact that the Pharisees, especially, saw themselves as the spiritual shepherds of Israel.

3 The Shepherds of Israel Did Not Seek the Lost

Ezekiel 34:1–10; Ezekiel 34:11; Luke 19:10

- The broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost.
- They're criticizing Jesus for spending time with those who are lost, for seeking out those who are lost, when it's the very things they themselves should have been doing.
- For thus the Lord God says, Behold, I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out.
- Son of man has come to seek and save the lost.

4 This Is What Is Right

- We're charged to try to reach out to as many with the gospel as we can.
- But the point that the Lord makes here is this is what is right. Here's someone who needs to be found. So let's go find them.
- This is God's attitude, and as an attitude he would have us to have.
- Sometimes doors slammed in our face, people don't talk to us anymore. But this is what's right.

5 The Woman Who Lost One Coin

Luke 15:8–10

- What woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it.
- This woman has only ten coins, and so she's losing a tenth of what she has.
- It's going to have to be a very slow, painstaking search.
- The coin being an inanimate object has no idea that it's lost. But sometimes we'll talk to people who have no idea that they're lost.
- But I think the point here is that God is rejoicing.

6 This Is an Individual Responsibility

- This is an individual responsibility for those who are Christians. If we're a Christian, we have this responsibility to seek out and save those that we can.
- They'll see our good works, but they're not gonna glorify God unless they understand who we are. And we may have to tell them who we are.
- It is necessary to use words. An example by itself is not enough. We have to use words. We have to talk to people.

MY NOTES