



14. Seeking the Lost

Jesus taught 3 parables in Luke 15 ... the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. You've heard them ... and probably can recall them from memory. Why did Jesus tell those stories? Do you know? Luke 15:1 tells us that, *"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.'"* Those religionists criticized Jesus for

spending time with the people who needed Him. So ... He told them those 3 parables. In the lost sheep parable, the shepherd left the comfort and security of the flock to search for the lost sheep. In the second parable, the woman searched the house for the lost coin. In the third, the father waited for his lost son to come to his senses and return home. In Jesus' description of the older son, He showed His critics what they were like ... self-righteous, self-centered religionists who had no concern for the lost.

Think about the 2nd parable woman searching for the lost coin *in the house* ... you see that's where the coin went

missing. I know what I'd ask if I saw her searching in the grasses and flowerbeds in her front yard instead of looking in the house. I'd ask, "Why are you looking outside when the lost coin is inside? Imagine her answering, "I'm looking out here because the light is better?" Wouldn't that be foolish? So I ask you this, "Where do you spend the most time talking about Jesus? Is it in your youth group, Bible study, or church where the light's better or out in the dark world where the lost are lost? Maybe we all should spend some time studying and living Luke 15.

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