

## JESUS

### 15. SEEKER: Jesus' Heart for People (Luke 15)

#### STUDY AHEAD

Luke chapter 15 is a “Bible in one chapter.” It captures the central theme of the entire Bible: God lost something, and He wants it back. Take some time to ponder this incredible chapter.

**Luke 15:1,2.** How would you describe the setting, or backdrop for this chapter? What was happening around the ministry of Jesus?

**Luke 15:3-7.** The trilogy of parables opens with the story of the shepherd with one lost sheep. What stands out to you the most?

Have you ever lost something that was so valuable to you that you went on a diligent search to find it?

**Luke 15:8-10.** There is balance in these first two parables, as one involves a man, and one involves a woman. If you have a Bible Dictionary, or can type in a search on Google or Safari on your computer or phone, do some digging about the possible meaning and importance of this woman's 10 precious coins in Luke 15. Why were they so valuable? Where did she get them from? Why was it such a big deal when she lost one of them, and she *had* to find it?

**Luke 15:11-32.** The parable of the prodigal son is the longest of the three, and it is only found here in Luke's gospel. It is truly one of the most monumental parables that Jesus ever spoke.

Describe the characteristics of the younger brother.

Describe the characteristics of the older brother.

What did the older brother think about his younger brother?

What did the older brother think about his father when the younger brother came home?

Describe the heart of the Father toward each of his sons.

As you consider the ending of this chapter, what do you think Jesus was trying to say to the Pharisees who were listening?

In all 3 parables, the emphasis Jesus makes at the end is about the JOY of a person in the story who finds the ONE that was LOST. And spiritually the JOY in heaven over ONE lost ‘sinner’ who has been FOUND. God is interested in each and every ONE of us. How does that truth impact you?