

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior  
Lesson Sixteen-b

[Luke 15:1-32].....Lost and Found

-*Sheep & Coins-*

- vs.1-6 God is the shepherd. The righteous are the 99 sheep. Any of the unrighteous are the lost sheep.  
The shepherd risks his own life to find one lost sheep
- vs.8-9 God is the woman. The righteous are the 9 silver coins(drachmas). Any of the unrighteous are the lost coin.  
Notice the persistence in her searching:  
1.Lights a lamp - Maybe she can see it (doesn't work)  
2.Sweeps the house - Maybe she can hear or see it (doesn't work)  
3.Searches carefully - She looks under, over, and in between everything until she finds it!  
Both shepherd and woman involve the friends in their celebrations - Safe to say that their friends and neighbors wanted to rejoice with them
- vs.7 & 10 Heaven rejoices more over one person who is no longer lost(unsaved) than over many who are saved already!

**NOTE:** God continues to seek us from sin to righteousness. God does not quit! This is an illustration of God's perfect love.

-*The Loving Father, The Lost (Prodigal) Son & Church Folks?-*

- vs.11 The loving father is God. The lost son is the one in need of saving.
- vs.13-20 When we live from under the protection of God, we eventually suffer:  
Son has money and friends - happiness  
Son loses money...and friends - sorrow  
Son meets a famine and unmet needs - more sorrow and suffering  
Son has to feed pigs - suffering  
Son's hunger tempts him to eat pig pods - major suffering
- vs.17-20 Son realizes he no longer has to live this way and decides to go home to beg for a servant position
- vs.20 The loving father has not given up on his son - he sees him coming and meets him  
The father does not focus on what this son has done nor been through  
He does not focus on the *past*  
The father's focus is on the son's return - "For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" vs.24
- vs.25-30 The older son represents **Church Folks!**  
Older brother is angry because a celebration is taking place for one who has "squandered" their father's money  
Truth of his anger is *jealousy* (vs.29-30)  
He can't rejoice because he's too focused on what *he* has done and what *he* has NOT received!
- vs.31-32 Loving father tells the older son, "*Mi casa, Su casa!*"  
The father sees the true meaning behind the celebration: Time for

mourning is over. It's time to rejoice as Heaven does over a lost soul who is found!

**NOTE:** Sheep are important, coins are important, but the redemption Christ offers is for the most precious, priceless, and important – those who don't know him!

**NEXT LESSON:** Luke 17:20-37 and Chapter 18 (Study Chapter 16 & 17:1-19 on your own)