

Series: The Story

Message: Who Needs The Story? Part 1

Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

Teacher: Randy Pope

Date: 30/31 July 2016

Luke 15:1-3

¹ Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him.

² Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So He told them this parable, saying,

Essenes (Extreme Conservatives)

Zealots (Political Radicals)

Sadducees (Spiritual Compromisers)

Pharisees (Spiritual Conservatives)

1) The Lost Sheep vs. 4-7

Luke 15:7

⁷ "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

2) The Lost Coin vs. 8-10

Luke 15:10

¹⁰ "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

3) The Lost Sons vs. 11-32

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons.

¹² "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

¹³ "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

¹⁴ "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

¹⁵ "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

¹⁶ "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

¹⁷ "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

¹⁸ 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'"

²⁰ "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹ "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;

²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ "And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be.

²⁷ "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.

²⁹ "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends;

³⁰ but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.

³² 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

1. All People Are Alienated From God.

2. Lost People Express Their Alienation From God In Different Ways.

1) Proudful Rebels Are Deceived By The Alluring World.

Luke 15:11-13

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons.

¹² "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

¹³ "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

2) Religious Moralists Are Deceived By Their Own Relative Goodness.

Luke 15:25-28

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ "And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be.

²⁷ "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.

Luke 15:29-31

²⁹ "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends;

³⁰ but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.'

Next Week:

3. Religious Moralists Are Worse Off Than Prideful Rebels.

- 1) Religious Moralists' Relative Goodness Masks Their Need For The Gospel.
- 2) Religious Moralists' Proximity To Home Convinces Them They Are Not Really Away From Home.

Luke 15:28

²⁸ "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.

- 3) Religious Moralists' Pride Of Performance Robs Them Of The Joy Of Grace.
- 4) The Religious Moralists' Comparison Of Personal Goodness With Those Of Lesser Performance Leads To Jealousy Expressed Toward The Recipients Of God's Grace.

Luke 15:29-30

²⁹ "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends;

³⁰ but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'