

God and the Unthinking

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 15:1-7.

B. The occasion of the parables of the lost are the Pharisee's complaints towards Jesus eating with the sinners and tax collectors.

C. The parables illustrate the joy of God for finding a lost sinner.

II. The Parable of the Lost Sheep.

A. Jesus fittingly chose a sheep because unlike other animals, they do not deliberately run away.

1. They do not want to be lost for they long to belong.
2. Those using drugs often find themselves here.

B. The Lord's response.

1. He left the lot of sheep to find the lost one.
2. Matthew is an example of one who left everything in response to the Lord's touch.
3. The shepherd went out to the place where the lost sheep was and took it with him.

C. The response of heaven.

1. There is great rejoicing.
2. God sets great value on lost men and women—they are all made in His image.
3. There is more rejoicing for a lost one than for ninety-nine not in need of repentance because the latter have already repented.
4. Righteousness is a gift of God given to the repentant who have cast themselves on the grace of God.
5. God still has a great delight in those that are His.

D. We are to share the same feeling as God towards a lost sinner.

Application questions:

1. Who is this lost one characterized? Why is the sheep metaphor important?

2. Why does God have more joy over a lost sinner than ninety-nine who are not in need of repentance?

3. Do you have joy for the lost sinner who repents? What can you do to increase your joy and be like-minded with God in this regard? Explain.
