THREE PARABLES / SAME HEART

Parables
August 9, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 15:1-32
- Luke 14:15-24
- Luke 19:1-10

KEY POINTS

- Parables open a window into the heart of God and hold up a mirror to the condition of our own hearts.
- The value of a person does not change when they are lost; God still sees them as infinitely valuable.
- God is not waiting for us to clean ourselves up; He runs toward us while we are still a long way off.
- There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who need no repentance.
- The older brother reveals the danger of a hard, self-righteous heart that refuses to celebrate the lost being found.
- The invitation to the banquet goes out to everyone — the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame, and even those who have squandered everything.
- True repentance looks like coming to our senses and recognizing that we have sinned against God.
- Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, and He is still seeking and saving today.

DISCUSSION

- Pastor Bob said every parable opens a window into God's heart and holds up a mirror to ours. What window into the Father's heart stood out most clearly to you in these three stories?
- The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son were all still valuable while they were lost. How does that truth change the way you view people who are far from God (or even yourself when you feel far from Him)?
- In the parable of the Lost Son, the father ran to his son while he was still a long way off. What does that picture of God do in your heart right now?
- The older brother stayed outside the celebration. In what ways can a "good" religious life still keep us outside the joy of the Father's heart?
- Jesus said there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. How should that reality shape the way we respond when someone turns back to God?
- Zacchaeus shows what real repentance looks like — immediate, costly, and joyful. Is there any area of your life where the Holy Spirit is inviting you to "come down" and respond like Zacchaeus?
- Jesus said, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Who is one person in your life that you sense God is still seeking, and how can you join Him in that pursuit this week?