

Luke 15:1-32

The Three-in-One Parable Themes

God's
wonderful grace

Lost
and
Found



Glad
and
Grumpy

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.



Hearers – encouraged

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."



Not-contaminated?

Then Jesus told them this parable: Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.



The Lost Sheep



Each one is valuable to him

One lost (99 left safe)

Great effort needed to find it

He seeks and saves the lost

Restored back

a, from danger to itself

b, to be in the flock

c, restored to owner

Rejoice on earth –

since rejoicing in heaven

Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.



The Lost Coin

Not just any old coin
wedding gift = ring

“precious”

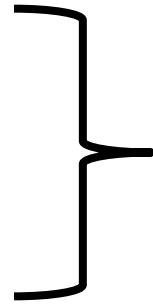


- 1, Diligent, persistent searching
- 2, Restored back in its rightful place
- 3, Angels rejoice over these ‘sinners’ coming into the right place with God

Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons.

The Lost Sheep

The Lost Coin



Here the Seeker takes the initiative

The Lost Son



Now human response is included



Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.



A terrible insult to his father But he gives it.

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Freedom !

Far away !

Fun ...



squandered!

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.





It doesn't last
or satisfy

**Now
you
are
on
your
own!**

Fair-weather friends

Where did the famine come from?

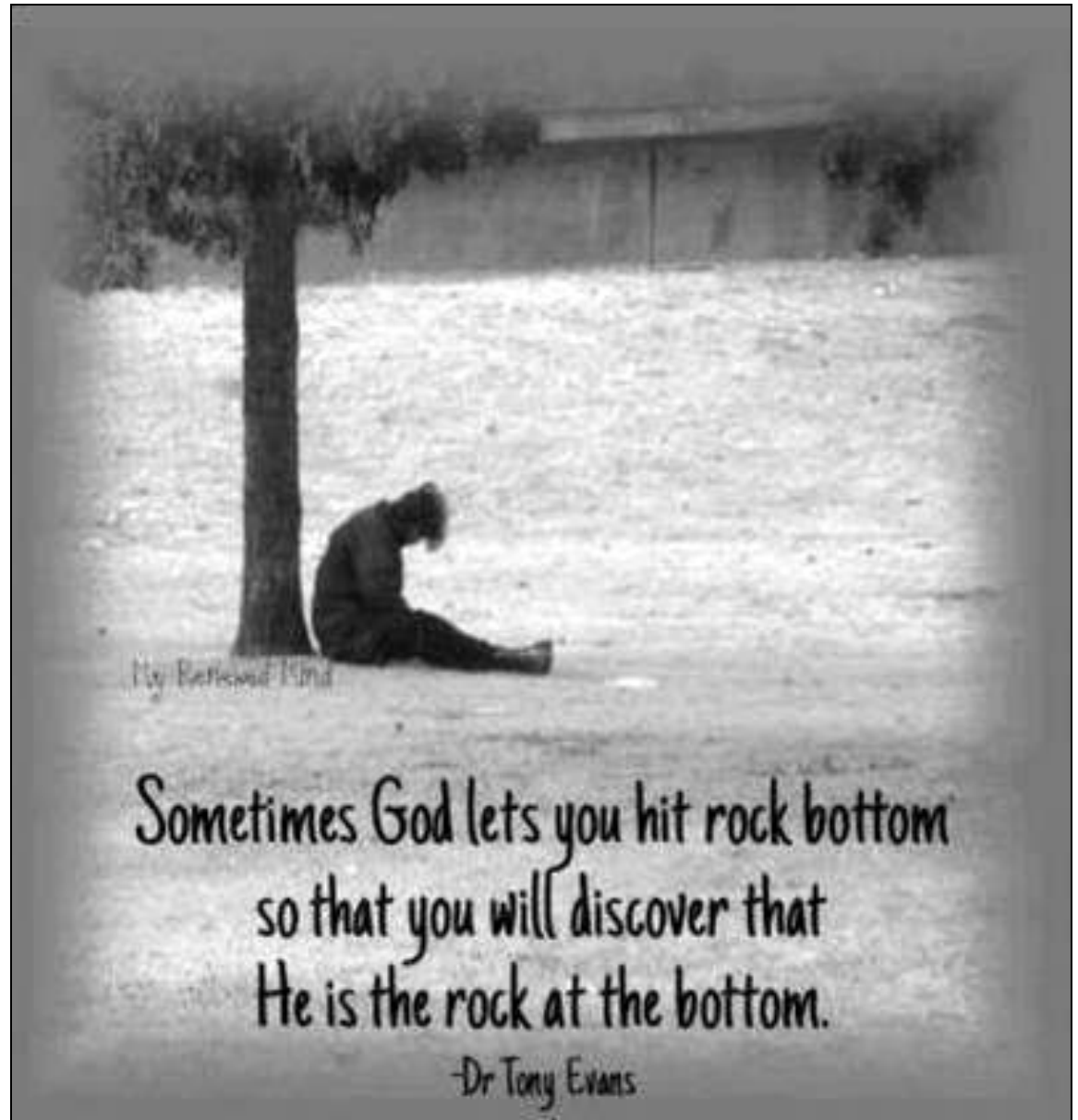


Yuck !!

Feeding pigs !!!

Willing to eat pig food !!!

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'



So he got up and went to his father.

Rock bottom sense

“I’ve been stupid and sinful.”

There’s a faint hope of better things with father

Signs of Genuine repentance



- 1, I’ve sinned against
“heaven”(God) and you
- 2, I am unworthy to be a son
(fearful he’s lost his place)
- 3, I’m willing to obey just as
servant (Psalm 84:10)

He went ! (Good decision!)

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



Father's Love



Watching out for him
Ran to meet him
Embraced him
Kisses him
Undignified ???

Thoughts for Pharisees!

Grace's heart softening effect

The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.



He is only able to make his confession
There's no chance to put in his request



Father, I have sinned
against heaven and
against you. I am no
longer worthy to be
called your son.

He is reinstated to the son's position

The Best Robe

The Ring of Authority



Dignified Shoes



Let's celebrate -- MY son is ALIVE



Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'



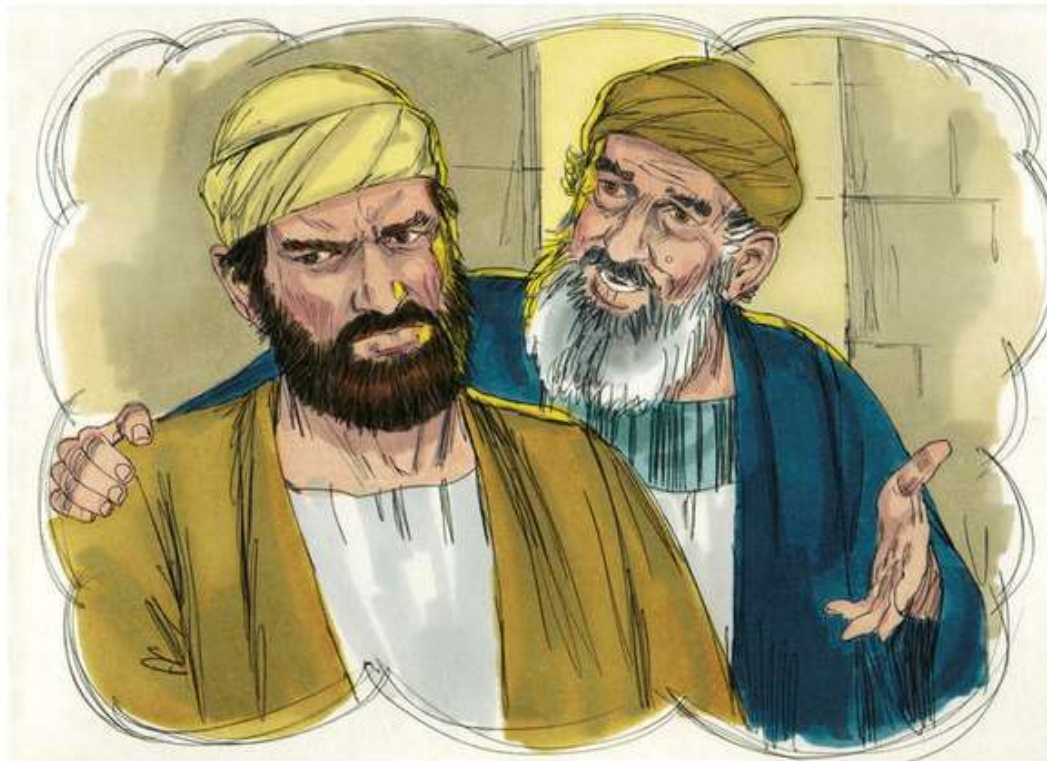
The worker

the older son was in the field

**It's Good News
Your brother
He's come home
Father is celebrating
He's alive and well**



The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'



What is he feeling ?

Left out
Resentful
Angry

Nothing for me (vs us)
(slavery – relationship)
This son of yours
(Insults -prostitutes?)
You welcome him
(accusation)

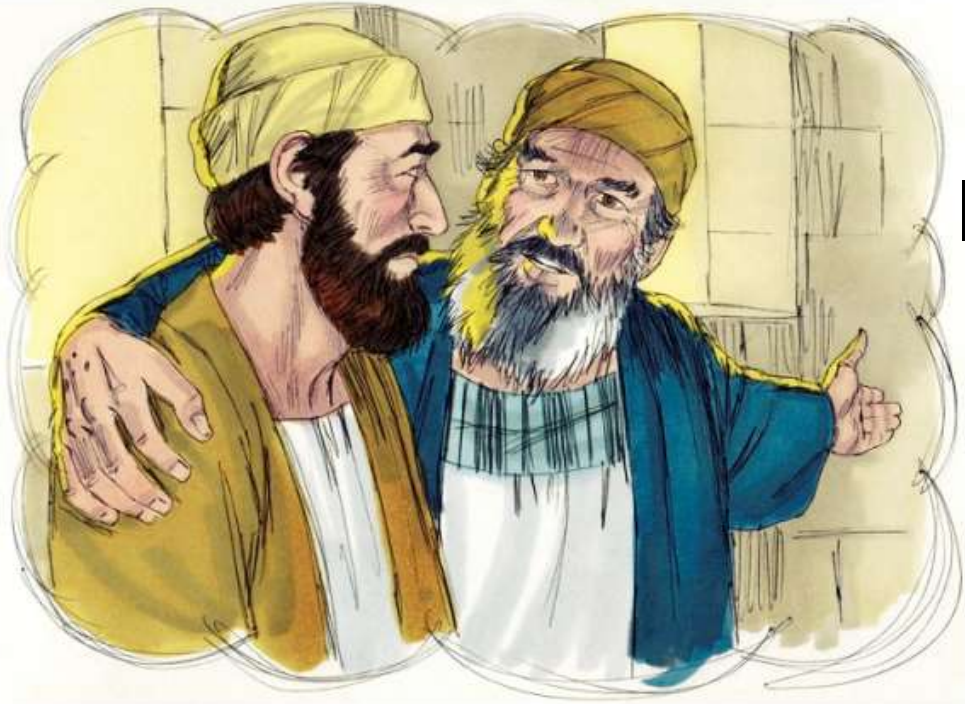


Father's Response?



His father went out and pleaded with him.

'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'



You're my son too
I'm here for you always
He's your brother

And he's come
home a new man

A plea to the Pharisees

Three-in-One



The Good shepherd seeks his sheep
& lays down his life for them



The Holy Spirit searches out the dark places
and brings light of knowledge of lost state



The Father's overwhelming grace



The Third Son in the parable



He kept the Law, obedient to the Father
He has the Father's heart for the lost
Reaches out and rejoices over their salvation