

LUKE 15: September 1; Three Parables

ANALYSIS:

1. What situation led Jesus to tell the three parables in this chapter?

2. In these three parables, what is the reason given for the rejoicing?

3. How was the lost found and/or restored in each parable? _____

4. Why do you think the elder brother was angry at the celebration his father was giving for the return of his younger brother?

5. How did the father explain the fatted calf celebration to his son who was at home? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

See the rejoicing (vs 5-7, 9-10, 23-25) in each parable at the finding and return of the lost one. Jesus said, "likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (v 7). Since there is "joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth," how do we share that joy whenever a wayward child repents and returns? Yes, we have a church feast and rejoice!! Let us pray for those who have been lost from our church family, and be ready to welcome them home!

How do you and I receive repentant returning sinners? Do we show them the tenderness of forgiveness and restoration Jesus taught by these three parables? Let's be ready to welcome them with compassionate embraces that assure them of restoration to the family! And let us hate and purge from our hearts any form of the self-righteousness and unforgiveness of the elder brother!

HELP:

1. Jesus has been criticized by the Pharisees for eating with publicans and sinners (vs 1-3).

2. The lost sheep, coin and son were found (vs 6, 9, 32).

3. The owner searches for his lost sheep, the woman searches for her lost coin, and the father expects his son to run out of money, experience famine, come to himself and start home, where he will be seen afar off and received with forgiveness (vs 4, 8, 14-20).

4. This parable is directed to the Pharisees of verse 2, represented by the elder brother. Answers will vary since they are your opinion. Some possibilities are: This elder brother was selfish, self-righteous, jealous of the forgiveness his father was showing, ashamed of the sins his brother had committed, unforgiving toward his brother.

5. It was meet to be merry for thy brother who was dead is alive, he was lost and is found (v 32).