

02 – The Lost Coin **Luke 15: 3-10 / Eph. 2: 1, 4-10**

Step 1: Link (back to why these parables were told)

We're reading Luke 15. Luke 15 starts with the Pharisees complaining about Jesus. What were the Pharisees complaining about - ? (. . . *that Jesus ate – was good friends – with tax collectors and sinners*) The Pharisees were very “good” people. The Pharisees did not think that they were sinners.

Jesus told three stories to help the Pharisees understand. We read the first story last week. What happened in the story last week - ? (. . . *the lost sheep*)¹ The story we're going to read today is very similar to last week's story. So we're going to re-read last week's story and then go on.

Step 2: Background (not needed)

Step 3: Key Questions

- **How are the stories the same?** (*1. something is lost, 2. someone looks for it, 3. it is found, 4. calls together friends and neighbors, 5. They are happy, 6. there is joy in heaven*)
- **How are the stories different?** (*1. a woman vs. a man; 2. A coin vs. a sheep; 3. 10 coins vs. 100 sheep*)

Step 4: Read Luke 15: 3-10

Step 5: Answer the questions: (make a chart on the board)

I found 6 ways the stories are the same, and 3 ways the stories are different. (*solicit their answers*)

Step 6: Talk about it

The first thing I want to talk about is this: a woman vs. a man. Jesus told two stories, one starring a man, and one starring a woman. Sometimes people say that Christianity makes women lower than men, but it just isn't true. Jesus respected and honored women, just like men.

Is a coin valuable - ? (. . . *yes*) How about a sheep - ? (. . . *yes*) At that time, both coins and sheep were very valuable. Both coins and sheep were part

¹ Let the students recount as much as they can. We're going to re-read this parable and compare it to the one we're focusing on today.

of a family's wealth. What do you think God is trying to tell us about ourselves - ? (... *that we are very valuable to Him*)

Let me ask you this question: Did the sheep know it was lost -? (... *maybe, maybe not*²) How about the coin - ? (... *no!*)

The sheep was an animal. Maybe it felt alone. Maybe not. Maybe the sheep was just eating something very delicious. Maybe the sheep was hurt. We don't know. But we DO know that the coin did not know that it was lost. The coin didn't know anything, didn't feel anything. The coin was just a coin.

I want to show you another important Bible truth. I'm going to show you a truth in the Bible that is very rich and special. It's in Ephesians. (*write on board*) Ephesians is way after Luke. It's a very short book. Let's read Ephesians 2:1 (... *s.o.*³ *reads*)

Ephesians was written to Christians. "In the past"⁴ means before they were Christians. What does this verse say about them before they were Christians - ? (... *they were dead!*) They were dead. They were dead to God. Were they more like the sheep? Or the coin - ? (... *the coin*)

The Bible teaches that before people become Christians they are spiritually dead. What can a dead person do? Nothing! A dead person can't find their way back home. A dead person is like a coin. The coin can only lay there until someone finds it.

Well, what did God do? We're going to finish today by reading what God did. He did this for everyone who is a Christian today. He is going to do this for everyone who will become a Christian. And I hope that means all of you!

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

Do you have any questions or comments?

² Kind of a "trick question." We only want to establish that the coin was inanimate, to lead to the next important Bible truth.

³ Someone

⁴ Or, "you were" – use the words in your classroom Bible