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GOD’S LOVE > MY LOSSES

Luke 15:1-31

Romans 2:4 (NASB), Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Luke 15:1-3, 1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3Then Jesus told them this parable:

* A parable - a comparative illustration used to persuade and convince
* About thirty-three percent of Jesus’ teaching was done through parables in the scriptures.

God’s Love > My Losses

1. My wandering heart becomes convinced God’s will is best.

(Luke 15:3-7 The Lost Sheep)

Luke 15:3-7, 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4“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? 5And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 7I 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.

1 Peter 2:9

1. My weakened heart becomes convinced God’s ways are best.

(Luke 15:8-10 The Lost Coin)

Luke 15:8-10, 8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coinand loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ 10In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 5:29-30; Luke 7:36-50

1. My weighed down heart becomes convinced God can fulfill its wishes. (Luke 15:11-31 The Lost Son)

Act 1 - A beloved son chooses pleasure over purpose**.**

Luke 15:11-12, 11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give memy share of the estate.’ So he divided hisproperty between them.

Act 2 - A beloved son squanders opportunity and experiences dissatisfaction.

Luke 15:13-14, 13“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. 14After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

Act 3 - A beloved son is willing to settle for far less than his father’s best.

Luke 15:17, “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!”

Act 4 - A beloved son learns his father isn’t willing to receive him without restoring his wishes.

Luke 15:18-20, 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20So he got up and went to his father . . .

John 15:7, If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

True disciples don’t live to please self.

Truedisciples don’t settle for failure.

True disciples believe in Jesus and trust him to fulfill the deepest desires of their heart.

Questions:

1. What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
2. What will you do because of it?
3. How can we pray for you?

