



# THE *Life of Jesus*

## FEBRUARY 7, 2021 - LOST AND FOUND

### Definition of parable:

παραβολή (parabolē), literally "throwing" (bolē) "alongside" (para-)

An earthly story with a heavenly meaning

A narrative analogy by simile or metaphor

### Three Parables:

#### #1 — The Lost Sheep

"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 neighbors 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.'" **Luke 15:3-7**

#### #2 — The Lost Coin

"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 neighbors 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." **Luke 15:8-10**

#### #3 — The Lost Sons (The Prodigal Son)

"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. 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.'

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. 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.

The older brother became angry and refused to go in." **Luke 15:11-13, 20-24, 28**



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### **Jesus answers the questions: Who is God? Who are we?**

(Setting: "The Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" Luke 15:2)

#### **1. Realize that lost people matter to God**

"When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.'" Matthew 9:11-12

#### **2. Discover God's face as the face of love**

"See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children—think of it—and we really are!" 1 John 3:1 liv

#### **3. Note that the "distant country" is not measured by distance**

"He replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" Mark 7:6

#### **4. Don't get lost in the "distant country" of deception and poverty.**

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools." Romans 1:21-22

#### **5. Watch out lest you turn from the prodigal into the elder brother**

"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.'

'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.'" Luke 15:28-29, 32