



*Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus*  
*The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin*

**Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:4-10**

**Lesson 8**

The Biblical description of those who do not know Jesus Christ is not "unsaved" but lost. The parables of the *lost sheep* and the *lost coin* reveal to us the heart of God as it amplifies on Jesus' purpose for coming: *to seek and to save that which was lost* (Luke 19:10). As believers, we should not only be in awe of the value God has placed on us, but we should follow His example in caring for those many consider to be *the least*.

**OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 18:10-14 and Luke 15:4-10**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of these parables. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Mark any words similar to the key words in the same way. Mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus* in the same way you mark *Jesus*.  
Key Words: *Father, Jesus, sheep, seek/go after, lost/astray, found, rejoices/joy, coin(s), repent, and heaven/presence of the angels of God*
3. *Even so* and *likewise* are words of comparison. Mark them.
4. Notice the words *rejoice* and *joy*. Make a list of what was being celebrated.

## CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. How does it feel to be lost and have no idea where you are?
2. To what lengths would you go to recover: a lost piece of jewelry? a missing wallet? an important misplaced document? a missing child? your missing child?
3. What emotions do you feel when you find a valuable item that was lost?
4. What thoughts come to your mind when you think about someone rejoicing over finding you?

## WHO IS IMPORTANT? Read Matthew 18:1-9

1. Jesus told the parable of the *lost sheep* in response to a question posed by the disciples. What was it? Matthew 18:1
  - a. What did Jesus do to illustrate His answer to their question? Matthew 18:2
  - b. According to verse 4, to what quality did Jesus identify *greatness*?
    - 1.) Define *humility*.
    - 2.) Read the words of David from Psalm 131:1,2 and describe his attitude. Note: A *weaned child* is content to be by his mother, no longer demanding milk from the breast, yet knowing she will take care of him
2. Jesus expressed the importance of the *little ones* (the ones who, to many, are of little significance) in Matthew 18:6-9. What was His warning?
  - a. Jesus used a little child to prove His point regarding those others did not value. Using the beginning of Matthew 18:10, fill in the blanks to reveal Jesus' next warning.

Take \_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ (despise = to not care for, neglect or think lightly of) *one of these* \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) Read the reason Jesus gave for His warning in this verse. God has angels watching over *these little ones*. How does this strengthen Jesus' warning in both verse 6 and verse 10?
  
- b. The parallel parable of Matthew's account of the lost sheep is found in Luke 15:4-7. Notice Jesus does not mention *little ones*, but broadens His concern to include all *sheep*. Accordingly, who is important to Jesus?
  - 1.) What lesson can we learn from this?

**SEEKING LOST SHEEP: Read Matthew 18:10-14**

1. Jesus reached a conclusion in Matthew 18:11. What was it?
  - a. Jesus made statements similar to this in response to the judgmental attitude of the Jews, expressing their views of superiority over sinners and people they deemed to be insignificant. Describe someone who is spiritually *lost*.
    - 1.) What types of people can fit that description?
  
2. Using Matthew 18:12-13, summarize the parable of the *lost sheep*.
  
3. Jesus often used *sheep* to describe His children and *Shepherd* to describe Himself. Read the following verses and describe the care of the *Shepherd* for His *sheep*:

John 10:7-17

Ezekiel 34:12-16

4. In the parable of the *lost sheep*, one of the *one hundred sheep* had gone *astray*. What are some examples of *straying*?
  
5. How did Jesus say the owner of *one hundred sheep* would react if just *one* of his sheep went *astray*?
  - a. Describe the care of a shepherd that would search for one lost sheep.
  
6. According to Matthew 18:13, what did the man do when he found his *sheep*?
  - a. Mark the word *assuredly* in this verse. What does this word say to you?
  
7. Record the conclusion of the parable as stated in verse 14.
  - a. What is the *will of the Father*? John 6:40

**SEEKING LOST SHEEP: Read Luke 15:4-7**

1. The parable of the *lost sheep*, as related in Luke, is very similar to that of Matthew 18. What differences do you see?
  
2. Notice the phrase in verse 4 *until he finds it*. What does this say to you about the persistence and care of God?
  
3. *And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders...*(verse 5). Record the words of Isaiah 40:11.
  - a. How do you view God's care for you after He has brought you back from *straying*?

4. Record the conclusion of the parable as stated in Luke 15:7.

a. To what is the *lost sheep* compared?

1.) In what ways is a *lost sheep that has been found* similar to a *repentant sinner*?

### SEEKING A LOST COIN: Read Luke 15:8-10

1. This parable is about a *woman having ten silver coins* who *loses one coin*. How do we know that the *lost coin* was valuable to her?

a. How do you know you are uniquely valuable to God?

2. What did the woman do when she *found the coin*?

a. What occurs in *heaven over one sinner who repents*?

b. Ponder the word *likewise* in verse 10. Note that there is *joy in the presence of the angels of God*. This is in comparison to the woman's friends and neighbors rejoicing with her. *Likewise*, those in heaven are rejoicing with the Lord over a *sinner who repents*. Envision the scene in heaven. What do you see?

c. How is the valuation of a person different in heaven than it is on earth?

**REVIEW: Read Matthew 18:1-14 and Luke 15:4-10**

1. What have you learned from this lesson about being great?
  
2. Unlike the man who did not know where his *lost sheep* was or the woman who *lost her coin*, God has never lost sight of you. How is a person in need of being *found* spiritually?  
  
3. How have you been blessed by:  
  
    God's persistence?  
  
    God's valuation of you?  
  
    The effort God made to *find* you?  
  
    The **fact** that God rejoices when you repent?
  
4. How have you been challenged by:  
  
    God's persistence?  
  
    God's valuation of others?  
  
    The effort God makes to *find* others?  
  
    The **fact** that God rejoices when others repent?

*For you were like sheep going astray,  
but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.  
- 1 Peter 2:25*

## Observation Worksheet

### The Lost Sheep

#### Matthew 18:10-14

"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? <sup>13</sup>And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. <sup>14</sup>Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

#### Luke 15:4-7

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' <sup>7</sup>I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

### The Lost Coin

#### Luke 15:8-10

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' <sup>10</sup>Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."