



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

**October 22, 2023: 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Series: From God's Heart to our Lives: Love
for the Lost**

Luke 15:1-10

*Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
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? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ 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. ⁸ "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? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

1. The introduction to the sermon mentioned the account of Jonah. What was Jonah's reaction when God did not destroy Nineveh? Was his reaction understandable? What sin do you see in Jonah and his reaction to God's compassion toward Nineveh?

2. Christians could still be tempted to mutter that Christ would receive certain groups of "sinners." Give an example of modern day "tax collectors and sinners" about whom we could be tempted to mutter?

3. Why is an understanding of your own "lostness" essential in showing love and concern for the lost?

4. In both the "lost sheep" and "the lost coin" how is God's searching, finding, and rejoicing over lost sinners portrayed?

5. If someone asks you, "Why are you a Christian?" How would you respond?

6. Give an example of a time in your life when you felt spontaneous joy and rejoicing. What insight does this give into the rejoicing in heaven whenever a sinner repents?

7. Why does the fact that it is Jesus "searching out and finding the lost" both lighten our load and motivate us to share the gospel with others?

8. To take home and pray: In both the lost sheep and the lost coin God teaches us that he seeks out the individual that is lost (one lost sheep, one lost coin). For whom can you pray that is without Christ and without hope? Pray for them. Pray that God would open a door to bring the message to them. Thank God for his individual grace in finding you, for the privilege of sharing in his joy for the lost and the courage to speak the message of God's love.