"Sin and Grace" Luke 15

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July 12, 2015

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

- 1. 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[a] 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."

- 11. Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.
- 12. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.
- 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.
- 14. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.
- 15. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.
- 16. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

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

- 22. "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.
- 23. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.
- 24. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.
- 25. "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 26. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.
- 27. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

- 28. "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.
- 29. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.
- 30. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'
- 31. "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.
- 32. 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.".

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By his Grace, God redeems us from sin.

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Are you and I seeking the lost?