Three Parables: Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son

➢ Intro:
  - Lk. 15: three parables about God, sinners, kingdom – lost sheep, lost coin, lost son

  - lessons from these parables that apply to ourselves

------------------

Review the parables
- Lk. 15:3-7 story: parable of lost sheep – relate to a share of Berkshire Hathaway (Buffett) worth $147k each a few months ago now worth about 70k

- Lk. 15:8-10 story: parable of lost coin (about days wages) – relate to lost cell phone or PDA (Smart Phone) or iPod

- Lk. 15:11-32 story: parable of prodigal son

------------------

➢ God deeply cares for each person – lost or saved
  - Lk. 15:4, 8 illus.: effort to save one lost sheep or find lost coin
    - illus.: #520 Seeking The Lost, review chorus

➢ - 1 Jn. 4:9-10; Rom. 5:6-10 love: what God has done, and continues to do, for us through His Son
  - 1 Tim. 2:4 God wants everyone to be saved
  - 2 Pet. 3:9 God wants everyone to repent, not perish

  - Do you care as much about your own soul, as much as God cares?
  - Do you care as much for other peoples’ souls, as much as God cares? - brethren, family, friends, lost

------------------

➢ God is sorrowful when one person leaves the fold and returns to the world
  - Lk. 15:4 illus.: one sheep lost (no longer in fold), leaves the 99 to go and find

  - Eph. 4:30 God grieves, we grieve the Holy Spirit with whom we’ve been sealed, by ripping off the seal
    - context: brethren in sin who did not repent

➢ - Heb. 10:26-27, 29 sin willfully, how badly it hurts God: trample Christ, regard blood unclean, insult Spirit
  - that’s why it’s important that we faithfully assemble together to encourage one another (Heb. 10:24-25)

  - Do you grieve when you, or others, turn away from God?
    - What do you do to try and bring them back – bring them back to the fold?
God never gives up on us – on people who are lost
- illus.: looked for sheep and coin till found
  - God never gives up

- illus.: father of prodigal son, received him back joyously, immediately upon his repentance
  - God never gives up

- we should never give up ourselves, or other people
  - illus.: older men baptized later in life (Tommy Farler, man in Kissimmee)
  - illus.: manage, McDonalds, young man not popular and failed frequently, with me started to succeed, he said because I believed in him
  - 2 Th. 3:14-15 even when disciple Christian, still admonish as brother – never give up

- Is there anyone you’ve given up on?
  - If there is, what should you do?

------------

God wants us to repent when we sin – father, prodigal son
- Lk. 15:21 repentant attitude: not worth to be Christian, child of God
  - affect it has on us knowing God wants us to come home – makes us want to go
  - affect it has on us when God takes us back, redeemed by Christ’s blood – changed life

- we want people who are in sin to repent
  - 1 Cor. 13:6-7 love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth: bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things – God wants . . . / we want . . .

- How is God’s desire for you to repent affecting your life?
  - eager to repent - or waiting and hesitating
  - glad when others repent

------------

Heaven (God, Jesus, HS, angels) rejoices when we repent
- Lk. 15:6-7, 9-10, 32 rejoice, joy in heaven, because was dead but now is alive

- Lk. 15:20 rejoice because compassionate
  - we want to repent, knowing God’s attitude when we repent
  - we want others to repent
  - we rejoice with God when a sinner repents – illes.: paint pic of rejoicing in heaven

- illus.: someone declared dead, lost at sea, all of a sudden shows up and is ok
  - rejoicing of wife, children, family, friends
When we repent and submit to God, He restores us as we were before – righteous, sins forgives
- Lk. 15:22-24 illus.: father restored son to position he had before left

- God cleanses us / makes us new / restores us and makes us righteous / sins forgiven / made alive
  - new start
- Jn. 1:12-13; 3:5-6 (unbeliever) born again, baptized into Christ, new creature (rf - 1 Pet. 1:3)
- 1 Jn. 1:7-9 (Christian) blood of Christ again applied to your soul, cleansed, renewed, made whole again

-------------------

Summary / Inv.
- Do you need a new start?
  - God wants to give it to you – repent

- What does it mean to repent? turn from sin and obey God – no obedience = no repentance
  - if you’re not a Christian. . . .
  - if you are a Christian. . . . sin / or just need to do better

- inv.