

I. Three Parables with a Common Teaching

1. [Luke 15](#) contains three parables which have a common teaching.
 - a. That teaching is the **rejoicing** that takes place in Heaven over one sinner that repents.
2. The parable of the lost sheep ([Lk. 15:4-7](#)).
 - a. The lost sheep was **one** out of one hundred ([Lk. 15:4](#)).
 - b. The restoration of the lost was reason for rejoicing ([Lk. 15:5](#)).
 - c. The restoration of the lost was reason for rejoicing with others ([Lk. 15:6](#)).
 - d. Heaven rejoices over one sinner that repents ([Lk. 15:7](#)).
3. The parable of the lost coin ([Lk. 15:8-10](#)).
 - a. The lost coin was **one** out of ten ([Lk. 15:8](#)).
 - b. The restoration of the lost was reason for rejoicing with others ([Lk. 15:9](#)).
 - c. Heaven rejoices over one sinner that repents ([Lk. 15:10](#)).

II. The Parable of the Two Sons

1. With this and the other two parables we must keep in mind the attitude of the Pharisees and scribes ([Lk. 15:1-2](#)).
 - a. They should have been thankful the publicans and sinners were listening to Jesus!
 - b. Instead, they murmured and spoke against Jesus.
 - c. This attitude led to a teaching moment with these three parables.
2. Some initial observations.
 - a. Both sons were with their father initially ([Lk. 15:11-12](#)).
 - b. Both of them were heirs ([Lk. 15:12](#)).
3. The younger son wasted his inheritance with riotous living and hit rock bottom ([Lk. 15:13-16](#)).
 - a. Sin will always waste whatever it touches.
 - b. When pig slop looks good to eat you know you have sunk low ([Lk. 15:16](#))!
4. The younger son finally came to himself ([Lk. 15:17-19](#)).
 - a. In other words, he began to think correctly.
 - b. Part of thinking correctly was acknowledging his sin ([Lk. 15:18-19](#)).

- c. His mind was changed for the better and he was ready to amend his past sins and so he repented.
- 5. The younger son produced the fruit of repentance ([Lk. 15:20-21](#)).
 - a. He followed through on what he said he was going to do ([Lk. 15:21](#); cf. [Lk. 15:18-19](#)).
 - b. Observe the compassion and urgency of the Father ([Lk. 15:20](#)).
- 6. The restoration of the younger son was reason for rejoicing ([Lk. 15:22-24](#)).
 - a. Heaven rejoices over one sinner that repents ([Lk. 15:7](#), [10](#)).

III. The Older Son Attitude

- 1. Not everyone was rejoicing at the restoration of the younger son ([Lk. 15:25-28](#)).
 - a. Far short of rejoicing the older brother was angry and he refused to go in and rejoice with the others ([Lk. 15:28](#)).
- 2. The older son's anger was rooted in himself ([Lk. 15:29-30](#)).
 - a. Count the personal pronouns "I," "me," and "my" and it will be obvious where his focus was.
- 3. The father settled the matter regarding the necessary action ([Lk. 15:31-32](#)).
 - a. The spiritually-minded must do their part to help restore the lost also considering themselves ([Gal. 6:1-2](#)).
 - b. Rejoicing is necessary with restoration because a soul is saved from death ([Jm. 5:19-20](#)).