

June 18 | Sunday

Upside Down: The Compassionate Father

Read [Matthew 18:12-14](#) / [Luke 15:8-32](#)



18 | Mon – Prologue | Read [Deut 6:5](#) / [Lev. 19:18](#) / [Luke 15:1-2](#)

Luke 15 is the chapter of lost things. It starts with a group of religious leaders muttering about the kind of people Jesus was associating with. Had they forgotten the ancient commandments given to their ancestors - to wholeheartedly love God and to love others as much as self? This week you will read three stories Jesus told them to illustrate what God thinks about the “lost” ones. But first, have you ever found yourself standing in the shoes of these men, *professing* to follow God’s teaching, but finding it difficult to really do so? Help is available!

19 | Tue – Oh, look, over there..! | Read [Luke 15:3-7](#)

If someone wanders away from faith, do you tend to just let them go? After all, everyone has free will and matters of faith *are* personal decisions. Jesus seemed to think differently. Using a familiar situation, Jesus recounts how a shepherd left his flock to find the missing one. We all need someone to care about us, to chase after us when we wander off, and to challenge us to stick to the path when the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence. Have you given permission to someone trustworthy to challenge you when you get sidetracked or lost?

20 | Wed – Richer than you think | Read [Luke 15:8-10](#)

To lose one of ten coins does not seem like such a big deal but these were probably the woman’s dowry (the only money she would bring into marriage that was technically hers to keep, even if the marriage dissolved). Each coin was worth a day’s wages. No wonder she was so desperate to find it. Who are the “coins” in your life, the people you value enough search for when they drop out of your life?

21 | Thu – It is not too late | Read [Luke 15:11-24](#)

Losing a sheep or some money is costly but losing a child? If you are a parent, can you relate to the father’s grief when his son “ran away” from home and his great joy when the son returned? The boy was destitute but his father cared nothing about that or the wasted inheritance. His heart overflowed with gratitude for his son’s return. Have you wandered away from God and were too ashamed to face Him? Don’t let anything stop you from turning around and coming home. You are still loved!!

22 | Fri – This is just plain WRONG | Read [Luke 15:25-32](#)

Jealousy will poison your soul. The spotlight shines on the younger son but there is something to consider as you look at the oldest son’s reaction. He stands back in the shadows and stew. And we get it. HE was the good son, the responsible one who made sacrifices to help the family, while his irresponsible little brother squanders half of the family fortune and then gets a hero’s welcome! Have you ever experienced something like this? What did you do?

23 | Sat – Where are you? | Read [John 10:10](#)

As you reflect on these stories, do you find yourself in any of them? Are you part of the 99 who stick close to the shepherd or are you the one who has wandered away? Are you like the woman desperately searching for something of value or are you the coin lost in the corner? Which brother do you most relate to? Wherever you find yourself, the message is clear... God loves to rescue the lost ones and finds incredible joy in bringing them home.