

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:11-32

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:11-12

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.

“he was lost and is found.”

“The younger son’s share of the estate would have been one-third, with the older son receiving two-thirds...What is unusual here is that the younger one initiated the division of the estate. This shows arrogant disregard of his father’s authority as head of the family.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:13-19

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.’

“he was lost and is found.”

“According to Moses’ law, pigs were unclean animals. That meant pigs could not be eaten or used for sacrifices. To protect themselves from defilement, Jews would not even touch pigs. For a Jew to stoop to feeding pigs was a great humiliation, and for this young man to eat food that pigs had touched was to be degraded beyond belief. The younger son had truly sunk to the depths.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:20-24

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.

“he was lost and is found.”

“...the father watched and waited... In the same way, God love is consistent and patient and welcoming. He will search for us...”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“he was lost and is found.”

John 10:16

16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:25-30

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!’

“he was lost and is found.”

“The older brother found great difficulty in accepting his younger brother when he returned, and it is just as difficult today to accept “younger brothers” today. People who repent after leading notoriously sinful lives are often held in suspicion; churches are sometimes unwilling to admit them to membership.”

“Instead, we should rejoice like the angels in heaven when an unbeliever repents and turns to God. Like the father, accept repentant sinners wholeheartedly and give them the support and encouragement that they need to grow in Christ.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:31-32

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.’ ”

“he was lost and is found.”

Luke 15:7

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.

Applications

- **No one who truly repents is beyond salvation.**
- **We should rejoice in salvation, not be Pharisees.**
- **The Holy Spirit decides on the time and circumstances of salvation.**

Final Thoughts

Luke 15:10

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Final Thoughts

“The younger son, like many who are rebellious and immature, wanted to be free to live the way as he pleased, and had to hit bottom before he came to his senses. It often takes great sorrow and tragedy to cause people to look to the Only one who can help them.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

Final Thoughts

Ephesians 2:1-5

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Final Thoughts

Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”