

The Parables of Lostness – Putting it All Together

Luke 15-16

The Context

- Luke 15:1
 - Jesus is attracting a crowd of publicans (tax collectors) and sinners.
- Where are they?
 - Jesus started in Galilee
 - Luke 13:22 – *And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.*
 - Luke 17:11 – *As he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria & Galilee*
 - Luke 19 – Encounter with Zacchaeus in Jericho
 - Jesus is somewhere north of Judea, between Galilee and Jericho, probably Samaria
- What do we know about the Samaritans?
 - Samaria is part of the “Northern Kingdom” of ten tribes of Israel who split from the “Southern Kingdom” which is known as Judah (area of Judea in the New Testament) during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon’s son.
 - Eventually Northern Kingdom was conquered and taken away in captivity by the Assyrians.
 - Some eventually trickled back, but with foreigners, or a “mixed-breed”
 - The Northern Kingdom also tried to break away from the Southern Kingdom religiously as well.
 - They established a pseudo-Judaism located in Mount Ephraim
 - This would keep those in the North from having to travel to Jerusalem in the south for religious requirements.
 - Despite these attempts, those in the north were still Jewish, or at least of Jewish descent and knew of the promise of the Messiah and were looking forward to it.
 - John 4:25 – Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman.
 - They were looking forward to the prophecy of the Messiah because it was for them as well, still being of Jacob.
- Luke 15:2
 - The Murmuring Pharisees
 - Supposedly devout in the law.
 - Of Judah, worshipped in Jerusalem at the temple
 - Following Jesus, keeping an eye on him, trying to discredit him per the law

Indications/Characteristics of a Parable

(Established from Matt 13:11-17)

- Is the story called out as a parable in scripture?
- Is it “para-bole”
 - *Para* – along side
 - *Bole* – to throw down
 - Is it throwing something down alongside something else for comparison?
- Is it about the Kingdom of Heaven/Kingdom of God?
- Does it have a hidden meaning that Jesus must explain?

	Lost Sheep (15:3-7)	Lost Coin (15:8-10)	Lost Son (15:11-32)	Unjust Steward (16:1-13)	Rich Man & Lazarus (16:19-31)
Parable?					
True Story?					
Given Meaning?					
Reference					
Message to the Pharisees					
E-Connection					