

# **Journey Through the New Testament**

## **Luke 11-15**

### ***Series: Authentically Human***

### ***“The Lost Son”***

***3-24-19***

#### ***Introduction***

The themes in Luke’s gospel have been characterized as “the least, the last, and the lost.” In this week’s readings, the healing of the crippled woman, the parable of the banquet, the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son demonstrate these themes. As you read through the gospels, be mindful of the ways that Jesus responded to a variety of people and circumstances. His responses flowed from his humanity and his divinity. He displayed anger and compassion, joy and sadness. He got tired and hungry. Jesus offered healing and forgiveness to those on the margins and demonstrated power and authority over sin and evil. He challenged the traditions of the Jews and upset the status quo. All of these actions fulfilled and revealed the will of the Father.

#### ***Opening Thoughts***

1. How has your image and understanding of Jesus been influenced by the gospel readings so far?
2. What has surprised you as you *Journey through the New Testament*?

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, we give thanks for your love of all people. We seek your message of truth and grace in your word. Give us understanding and open our hearts to return to you when we wander away. Give us a spirit of joy for each person who finds their way home. In Christ we pray. Amen.

#### ***Bible Study Luke 15:11-19 (CEB)***

#### ***What?***

1. What did the younger son request from his father? (v. 12)
2. When he received his share of the estate, what did he do? (v. 14-16)
3. What eventually happened to him?
4. What plan did he devise for his return home?

### ***Read Luke 15:20-24***

1. When the father caught a glimpse of his son, what did he do? (v. 20b)
2. What was the younger son's response? (v. 21)
3. What interrupted his rehearsed speech? (v. 22)

### ***Read Luke 15:25-32***

1. When the older son heard the news of his brother's return, what was his response? (v. 28-30)
2. What is the father's explanation for the celebration? (v. 31-32)

### ***So What?***

1. Tax collectors, sinners, and Pharisees were listening to Jesus teach. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus associated with the sinners. (Luke 15:1-2) In Jesus' parable, who does the younger son represent? The older son? The father?
2. What caused the older son to be so angry about the celebration for his brother?
3. Do you think he eventually decided to join the celebration? Why or why not?

### ***Now What?***

1. Who do you relate to in the story? The brother far from home? The son who was always with the father? The father, celebrating his son's return?
2. How do the father's actions demonstrate grace?
3. Now, what response do we make to the extravagant offer of God's grace? Feel unworthy like the younger son? Feel deserving like the older one?
4. What is the main point of this parable?

### ***Closing Reflection***

In Luke's parables of lost things, each involved a celebration. Jesus used this to highlight how heaven celebrates "over one sinner who repents."

1. How do these parables help us gain a more "heavenly" or divine perspective as we carry out the mission of the church to make disciples?

*The son of man came to seek and to save what was lost.* Luke 19:10