

**Title: We Celebrate Life Change**

**Text:** *"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* (Luke 15:10 ESV)

**Target:** The Church must emulate what heaven celebrates.

- I. **The Purpose of the Parables:** *"Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him."* (Luke 15:1)
    - A. **Accusations towards Jesus:** *"And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying..."* (Luke 15:2a)
    - B. **Acceptance of Jesus:** *"This man receives sinners and eats with them. **So He told them this parable:**"* (Luke 15:2b-3)
      1. **Afflict the Comfortable:** Pharisees and Scribes
      2. **Comfort the Afflicted:** Tax Collectors and Sinners.
  - II. **The Parallel in the Parables:** Sheep, Coin, Son
    - A. **The Loss is Noticed:** It matters that it's Missing (Vs. 3, 8, 13)
    - B. **The Pursuit is Personal:** *"Seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10)
      1. **Leaves the 99 (lingering in danger):** *"open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"* (15:4)
      2. **Cleans the House (lying in darkness):** *"light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?"* (15:8)
      3. **Waits on the Porch (living in deception):** *"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him"* (15:20)
    - C. **The Celebration is an Invitation:**
      1. **Sheep is Rescued:** *"And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'" (15:6)*
      2. **Coin is Revealed:** *"And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'" (15:9)*
      3. **Son is Restored:** *"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."* (15:24)
  - III. **The Point of the Parables:** *"It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."* (15:32)
    - A. **The Value of the One:** People matter more than sheep and coins.
    - B. **Rescue & Relocate is the Mission:** Just one more.
    - C. **Never give up on what's been Lost:** Stay Diligent.
    - D. **New Starts and New Steps Matter:** Be Good News.
    - E. **Celebrating becomes Motivating:** Encourages Growth.
    - F. **Parties are Heavenly:** If it matters to God, it matters to us.
- Takeaway:** Imitation is the greatest form of Appreciation