

GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SINNERS

(Luke 15:1-10)

A. THE SETTING OF JESUS GIVING A LONG DISCOURSE (Luke 15:1-2)

1. Luke very well may have balanced two _____ groups – “*tax collectors and the sinners*” with two _____ groups – “*Pharisees and scribes*” to heighten the conflict between the two.
2. The poor and needy drew near to _____, while the religious leaders were critical and _____ from a distance.

B. THE PARABLE OF THE SEARCHING SHEPHERD (Luke 15:3-7)

1. The following parables teach that the _____ of a sinner to God is cause for rejoicing not grumbling. (v. 3)
2. The most common occupation in Palestine was a _____, and Jesus’ opening question, “*Which one of you?*” would have caused each one of His listeners to take _____ interest in His story. (v. 4a)
3. By leaving the ninety-nine sheep in the fold, the shepherd was _____ saying they were unimportant, only that they were safe while the sheep that had _____ was in a lot of danger. (v. 4b)
4. When the shepherd finally finds his sheep that _____ wandered off, and he brings it back _____ where it belongs, he rejoices greatly. (vv. 5-6)

5. The active shepherd pictures the compassionate heart of the Lord Jesus who _____
_____ sinners who need to repent.

* How is it that the Pharisees and scribes that were present did not “*need*” repentance? (v. 7b)

C. THE PARABLE OF THE SEARCHING WOMAN (Luke 15:8-10)

1. The coin that this woman lost was most likely part of the row of coins which formed a headpiece (a part of her original dowry), signifying her _____. (v. 8a)

2. The married women in Jesus’ audience would have immediately identified with His story, and with the woman’s _____ in “turning the house _____” in trying to find one simple coin. (v. 8b)

* What is emphasized in the woman’s cleaning?

3. No wonder this woman rejoiced, this coin had monetary and _____
to her and she wanted everyone to share in her joy in finding it. (v. 9)

4. Jesus was explaining to His critics that contrary to what they believed in their prejudices, God went to _____ lengths in exerting an enormous amount of effort in _____
a sinner to Himself. (v. 10)

* What can you personally apply from this passage?