

“1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. 3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. 8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. 11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. 25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.” (Luke 15:1-32 KJV)

Christ came from heaven to save us from sin and death. He died for our sins on the cross to give us eternal life. The plan of God for salvation was fulfilled when Jesus came and He gave His life for the whole world.

In the chosen passage from the gospel of Luke we read that publicans and sinners came to meet Jesus and hear the message from him. But the Pharisees criticized him as we read, **“2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.” (Luke 15:2 KJV)** Now with that we can see another important purpose for what Jesus came on earth. The Pharisees and the scribes they were the people who knew the Word of God and had received much from God and they should be the one to reach new people, the sinners, and bring them to God. When they did not do so, then Jesus needed to do it by himself. And what we found here that instead of helping Jesus they were murmuring against him. In response to them Jesus spoke three parables to teach us His will of how we need to share our faith and the salvation of Jesus, and how to be an aid to Him in reaching the lost world.

“3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying.” (Luke 15:3 KJV)

“4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” (Luke 15:4-7 KJV)

The shepherd who went out looking for the lost sheep, he was led by God to do that. The lost sheep is a person who not yet heard about Jesus or experienced the love of God. The Lord reached the heart of that shepherd man and directed him to reach that lost sheep because that man had compassion and concern for the lost souls. That shepherd was willing to suffer: willing to travel and get tired: willing to take risk: willing to spend and to carry on his shoulders. He was willing to do all that because He esteemed what is in the heart of God toward the lost souls. He left the **ninety and nine in the wilderness**, to reach one more soul. The ninety nine supposed to be in order to support the mission of the shepherd to reach the lost. We can learn from that parable the following further things:-

- 1- All of us should take part in the mission of reaching the lost sheep.
- 2- Our obedience and living in order will aid the mission of reaching the lost souls.
- 3- We need to invest all what we have for this mission of God.
- 4- We reach the lost sheep one by one. One soul at a time is in the heart of God.
- 5- We will share in the joy of heaven as one soul will repent and come back to God.

“8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” (Luke 15:8-10 KJV)

The lost coin is the person who had experienced the love of God but he later on regress in his walk with God and becomes inactive and cold toward God, but he is still inside the house of God and part of the family of God, His church. The woman is the church, and the church is the family that cares about its members and follows them up closely. The woman ***light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it.*** From that we can conclude further the followings:-

- 6- All effort should be invested for this purpose. Each and every family is responsible to reach out their children, parents, grandparent and their relatives for Christ.
- 7- All of us we need to be creative, diligent and determined in our mission to reach and revive those souls who are lost, and who is inside our families and inside our church.

“11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:11-24 KJV)

The lost son is the person who experienced God's love in full. He already took all the rights and privileges but later on he left the house of God, left the church, in order to do his own will and plan. For such person nothing can be done further. His sin led him to Death: ***“16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. 17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.” (1John 5:16-17 KJV)*** The lost son willfully left God and His church and went away. So there is no point to pray for such kind of people because they are adamant and we should no more bother ourselves with them.

The lost son sinned willfully against God and against the house of God, HIS church, ***“26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath***

counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31 KJV) The willful sin of the lost son led him to death and nothing you can do further toward him. Such person you don't need to follow him up more or to pray for him or go to him and advice him. Even if you go and find him, contact him, and speak to him, he is dead and you will not be able to do anything with him to bring him to life. He himself needs to repent and come back to God.

The lost son, himself came back to his senses and went back to his father, who mentioned the following statement about him, ***“24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:24 KJV)*** ***“32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.” (Luke 15:32 KJV)*** Twice the father said that he was dead and now he is alive. His willful sin in leaving the father house is the thing that caused him death. But when he repented and came back to the father and confessed his sin that he sinned against Heaven and against the father, he gain life. From that we can conclude further the following:-

- 8- No one of us shall go after the lost son.
- 9- They left the house of God willfully against the will of God after they had received all the good things from God, ***“13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far .” (Luke 15:13 KJV)***
- 10- They purposely left God and His church just for the sake to enjoy life with worldly pleasure, ***“and there wasted his substance with riotous living.” (Luke 15:13 KJV)***
- 11- Therefore, now we need to understand that God gave us shoulders to carry the lost sheep and not to carry the lost son.
- 12- The lost sons need to pass through famines, hunger and poverty in order for them to be able to realize that in doing their own will had caused them troubles and put them in need.

“25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.” (Luke 15:25-32 KJV)

The elder son was angry, resenting against his father because the father was celebrating the coming back of the lost son. While for him (the elder son) who had served him diligently, the father did not give anything to enjoy life with his friends. The elder son is the person who

abides and lives in God's will. He is a person whose faith and commitment would be tested with suffering for the sake of the service and ministry unto God.

The Lord may show love to those who are coming back and he may bless them initially more than us and for a while. But that should not entice us and make us angry against God and takes the attitude of moving away from serving the Lord, as what the Pharisees and the scribes did in murmuring against Jesus. The joy that God expresses in coming of the lost son back to HIM should encourage us to be more faithful to God and to be an aid to HIM in reaching new sheep for Him. The father assured his elder son with this statement, ***"Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine."*** (Luke 15: 31 KJV)

From that we can conclude further the following:-

- 13- We are always with God and all what God have is for us.
- 14- Our momentary suffering on earth being the elder sons shall be rewarded in eternity by the Lord.
- 15- We need to be mature and fully assured to be able to reach the expectation of God.

My dear and beloved: As you are in God's presence commits your life and your ways to God. Learn what is in the heart of God about the lost souls and how you need to act toward each and every one of them; the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. Learn from God's Word what God wants from you. You need also to be a good example and in right attitude, to be successful in doing the mission of God.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that makes things clear to me. Thank you for the principles that I learn from this message.

Lord forgives me these sins _____. Let us confess to God our sins _____.

Lord forgives me my lack of evangelism. Lord I commit myself to go and look for the lost sheep. Lord I am willing to go and spend time and effort to bring them back to you. Lord I commit myself to look for the lost coin inside my family and inside the church and bring them back to your presence..

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learn. I commit myself to be willing to suffer and persevere in serving, knowing that my reward is in your hand. Lord provides for me and sustains me with strength and good health to do that and to continue to serve you. I thank you and praise you for all what I had received from you. Lord I commit myself to employ that in your Kingdom.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters to respond to your call, to go on and serve you, to evangelize, and to go and bring the lost sheep and the lost coin to you. Lord I pray for those who had committed their lives in serving you. Lord provide them all their needs, give them good health and strength to go on and fulfill their assignments for this ministry of your church.

Lord I pray for the church to grow. I pray for more Bible studies to be planted to teach your Word to the people whom you call to serve you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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