

The Value of One

Luke 15

I. The context

- a. The cultural context
 - i. Shame and honor
 - ii. Built on appearances
- b. The conversational context, who are the players?
 - i. Tax collectors and sinners
 1. Robbers, murderers, prostitutes, anyone not living according to the Pharisee's law
 - ii. Pharisees and Scribes
 1. Pharisee – “one who separates from sin” (sinners)
 2. Scribes – the highly educated in Mosaic Law
- c. The context of the subject
 - i. An answer to criticism

II. One parable, 3 stories

- a. Each story has the same lesson
 - i. Starts based on a relationship
 1. Shepard to sheep, women to coin, Father to son
- b. Each subject is in trouble
 - i. A dumb sheep Eph.5:17
 - ii. A valuable coin a part of her dowry)
 - iii. A defiant and willful son
- c. Each with a joyous reunion
 - i. Salvation deserves a party!
 - ii. Prevents destruction, gives peace, love, security

III. The takeaway

- a. Truth
 - i. You are valuable
 - ii. God wants you and He will pursue you!
- b. God's Grace
 - i. Never ending