

## **Lost and Found**

Luke 14:25 – 15:10

by Don Falkos

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Jesus said, "If you want to follow me, you must be more devoted to me than you are to your own parents, to your spouse and your children, to your brothers and sisters. You must love me more than your own life. When you commit to me, you must be ready to follow it through. You cannot be my disciple unless you are willing to surrender completely, unless you are willing to give up everything you have.

"Salt is a good thing. But if it loses its saltiness nothing can be done to make it salty again. It's useless and has to be thrown away."

A crowd of tax collectors and other people of questionable character gathered to hear Jesus speak. The Pharisees and the experts in the Law were indignant. "This man makes friends with sinners."

Jesus said:

There was a man who had a hundred sheep. One wandered off. So he left the ninety-nine in the field and went looking for the one. When he found it, he was overjoyed. He put it on his shoulders and carried it home. Then he called his friends and neighbors together and said, "Celebrate with me, I found my lost sheep."

"There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who turns back to God than over ninety-nine people who are in good relationship with God and have never turned away in the first place."

There was a woman with ten silver coins. She lost one of them. So she lit a lamp, swept the floors, and searched the house from top to bottom until she found the lost coin. She was overjoyed. Then she called her friends and neighbors together and said, "Celebrate with me. I found my lost coin."

"There is rejoicing in heaven over a single sinner whose heart is changed."