

***Sermon Title:* "THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE"**

Date: June 18, 2023 - Luke 15:1-7

Central Idea: Lost sinners came to Jesus because He cared for them. Do we truly care for lost sinners?

Introduction:

Jesus understood the importance of priorities—He focused on the lost. Luke 15 is often called the “lost chapter,” because in this passage, Jesus talks about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. The sheep got lost naturally; the coin got lost accidentally; and the son got lost willfully. In every case, someone went out to look for what was lost (Luke 15: 4, 8, 20).

Jesus’ priority was “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 18:10). He would not be diverted from this most important activity. The scribes and Pharisees grumbled about how much time He spent with tax collectors and sinners. Instead of retreating and appeasing the wishes of the religious leaders, He reminded everyone of priority one!

Three words summarize the message of this chapter:

1. Lost
2. Found
3. Rejoice

Conclusion:

“This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” From the point of view of the Pharisees, the situation was even worse; and from the point of view of faith, even better. There are at least four different attitudes one can assume toward the lost:

1. Hating them
2. Regarding them with indifference
3. Welcoming them when they come to you
4. Seeking them

Which best describes you?