

Sermon Title: Welcoming Sinners: Seeing Surprising Grace in Luke 15

Main Idea:

The stories in Luke 15 convey a singular, surprising message about salvation. We are going to prepare for understanding the parable Jesus tells by examining the reason he told it. As a result, we will better understand how Jesus is using these stories to challenge the perceptions of the religious leaders and illustrate how and why we can be sure that undeserving, sinful lawbreakers really can be part of the kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions:

- What is something that is unique about Luke 15?
- How does Luke's use of the word parable in the singular form impact the way we approach this chapter?
- What is the significance of the tax collectors and sinners drawing near to hear Jesus?
- Why were the Pharisees and scribes upset with Jesus, and how does their grumbling reflect a deeper issue with their religious understanding?
- What do they say about Jesus' attitude towards sinners?
- How does the Old Testament context of "grumbling" connect to the Pharisees' reaction to Jesus in this passage? Why does the sermon compare the Pharisees' rejection of Jesus with the Israelites' disobedience in the wilderness?
- What are the different "contexts" we looked at to understand the parable in Luke 15?
- How does Luke 15 fit into the story of the Bible? How does it help answer a question someone may be asking by the end of the book of Acts?
- How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 14 about who to invite to banquets relate to the controversy in Luke 15?
- In what way does the sermon argue that Jesus is fulfilling, rather than contradicting, the Old Testament narrative?
- What are the implications of the sermon's teaching about the nature of salvation and who is included in the kingdom of God?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.