

Sermon Text: Luke 15**Sermon Title:** A Word for the Tax Collectors and Sinners**Main Idea:**

While Jesus was primarily talking to the Pharisees and scribes in Luke 15, there were tax collectors and sinners there listening in. In this message, we want to think about what these stories say to them and people like them. Specifically, I want to talk with those of you who feel ashamed and unworthy because of sin. We'll identify the wrong approach to dealing with shame and guilt and see a better approach by meditating together on what we've learned from this chapter over the past several weeks.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some different reasons people feel unworthy and ashamed? In what ways can that be helpful and what are some ways it can be destructive?
2. What are some wrong ways people try to deal with the problem of shame and guilt? Why are those ways unhelpful?
3. How do the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and prodigal son illustrate God's approach to sinners? What are some illustrations in these stories that Jesus takes sin seriously?
4. How is the way Jesus related to sinners different from the religious leadership?
5. What are some of the things that stood out to you from the message about God's grace?
6. What are some reasons Christians fail to enjoy God's grace?
7. How is hiding your sin connected to a failure to really think through or believe the implications of Luke 15?
8. What are some of the reasons people have such a difficult time confessing their sins to others and being open? How could you use the message of Luke 15 to speak to those issues?
9. How might constantly feeling unworthy and shame and beating yourself up actually be connected to pride?
10. How can believers support each other in dealing with guilt and shame in a way that reflects Jesus' teachings?
11. What are some different truths from this chapter and the rest of the Bible that demonstrate God really is a gracious God who is eager to forgive and pour His love out on undeserving people who will come to Him through Jesus in faith?

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.