

Luke 15

ASVh with Comments

Summary. In this chapter, all readers can see that God the Father Himself has shown mercy to all humans through the work of the beloved Son of God on earth in showing love and mercy towards all sinners. The beloved Son of God starts calling all sinners back to Him by teaching them and showing them the way to be saved. **Luke 15:1-2.** *The purpose of the beloved Son of God coming to earth.* The Lord Jesus came to earth to speak the Living Word and to save all sinners. **Luke 15:3-7.** *The parable of the lost sheep.* The Lord Himself will go and look for all His lost children, and when a sinner has repented, the Lord's heart rejoices, and when His heart is rejoicing, the whole heaven will rejoice with Him. **Luke 15:8-10.** *The parable of the lost coin.* The woman in this parable, as a human, delights in finding her lost coin, which is of lesser value. This parable is a comparison to show how much more the Lord rejoices when one of His lost children repents and comes back home. **Luke 15:11-32.** *The parable of the father and two sons.* The father in this parable has two sons who are different from each other. He shows mercy and love to both of them and divides them his property according to his judgment. He receives with joy and celebration the one that was lost and came back, and with love, he entreats the other to forgive his brother. Our heavenly Father is like this father in this parable: He shows mercy and love to all His children, and He rejoices with all the children who repent, ask forgiveness, and come back to Him.

¹ And all the publicans and the detestable were approaching near to hear Him.

Comments 15:1. The verse tells the purpose of the beloved Son of God coming on the earth. As His Word comes out, He draws sinners to come and be saved. The purpose of speaking the Living Word from His mouth is to save all sinners. Come close to Him and hear His voice, and all of you will be saved.

² And both the Pharisees and the scribes complained throughout the crowd, saying, He receives sinners, and eats with them.

Comments 15:2. The sinners among sinners complained against the will of God. If God receives sinners and they themselves are sinners, they all should come as well to repent.

³ And He spoke to them this parable, saying,

⁴ What man of you, possessing one hundred sheep, and having lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and goes after that which has been lost, until he finds it?

Comments 15:3-4. For verses 4 to 7, see also Comments Matthew 18:12-14.

We should notice that there are some differences between the parable in this gospel and the parable in the Gospel of Matthew. In this verse, the Lord gives a different degree of going astray; lost is straying out and not finding the way back unless the owner goes and leads it back; that is the lost sheep. But when the sheep goes astray, it is not far from the flock itself, just further ahead or behind, a little bit far off from the flock, but it does not get lost.

The lost sheep here in this parable means a Christian who has been led astray by another person who claims to be a believer as well but teaches someone else the wrong way and makes that true believer get lost spiritually.

In the real world, you as the owner of something, if you lose it, you will have a bad feeling of ownership, and you yourself will try to find it back; it is the same way as the verse has said.

But when the Lord speaks out this parable, His meaning is not only for this earth alone but for the world to come as well. So, therefore, the lost sheep that belongs to Him, that has been lost in this world, the Lord Himself will go out and look for it, and He will not give up until He gathers them all back to His barn.

⁵ And having found, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

Comments 15:5. As the verse tells us, the Lord will go and look for all the lost sheep. When the Lord has found them, even as the verse says, He puts them on His shoulders, but in the spiritual world, the Lord will put them into His bosom. This is the way the Lord shows love towards His lost children: the width of His breast receives them all. When they wander off in the wrong way, He will always go after them.

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together the friends and the neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was perishing.

Comments 15:6. Home in this place is heaven; His friends and His neighbors are angels and all the servants of the Lord. The beloved Son of God will announce to all the hosts of heaven: I have brought back My lost sheep; come and rejoice with Me because I have found My lost child.

⁷ I say to you that even so, there will be delight in heaven on one sinner repenting, more than over ninety-nine righteous, who have no need of repentance.

Comments 15:6-7. The righteous ones have already been saved, and the celebration for those has been done already. But when a sinner has repented, the lost sheep, the Lord's heart rejoices, and when His heart is rejoicing, the whole heaven will rejoice with Him; that is why the verse has told: "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was perishing."

⁸ Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, and sweeps the house, and searches diligently until she finds it?

Comments 15:8. This parable has a similar meaning to the parable above, but the Lord wants to provide a comparison for all readers. In this parable, the Lord uses this woman, a human, as an example of searching for her lost coin that is of lesser value. With the love the Lord has for all His children, think of how much more the Lord will search for His lost children; He will search for them, and when He finds them, He will rejoice more than this woman does when she finds her lost coin.

⁹ And having found it, she calls together the friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I lost.

Comments 15:9. This verse has the same meaning as verse 6 above. As a human, this woman rejoices in finding the lost coin and calls her friends and neighbors to celebrate. But, for the Lord of heaven, who are His neighbors? All heavenly hosts in heaven are His neighbors. They will all know when His lost children have been found, and all will realize how much the beloved Son of God rejoices in finding His children; it is a clear comparison for all.

¹⁰ Even so, I say to you; there is delight in the eyes of the angels of God on one sinner repenting.

¹¹ And He said, A certain man had two sons.

¹² And the younger of them said to the father, Father, give the part of your substance falling to me. And he divided between them the substance.

Comments 15:11-12. A certain man in this place represents the Lord Himself; the two sons have different meanings. As the verse has told, the younger one is asking for his inheritance from the father, and the earthly father has given the inheritance according to what he has. But the Lord Himself has all this earth as His inheritance, and when one of His children asks for an inheritance, with love, the Lord Himself will give him a portion. Therefore, there are two ways of inheritance from the Lord: inheritance of this earth, that is one thing the Lord will provide, but also, He has a spiritual inheritance to give as well. But these children ask for the inheritance of this earth, and the father of this earth will give according to what he has. But you as a believer, when asking gifts from the Lord, do not ask gifts of this earth but of the earth that will come, which will be the real inheritance for you.

The young man asks for the part of the inheritance that falls to him, and his father gives him the part that falls to him; another son has not asked his part yet, but we should notice that the father has already prepared a spare portion for the one that did not ask inheritance yet. The verse does not tell how much he gave away, but the verse tells he gave away the portion that the young son was asking, which he thinks the son deserves, and the father gives according to his judgment.

¹³ And not many days after, the younger son, having gathered together all that he had, took his journey into a far country; and there dissipated his wealth with riotous living.

Comments 15:13. As the verse tells us, the wealth he has spent was not his from the beginning; the way he used his wealth is the same as many Christians nowadays. They do not use properly the gift the Lord has given them. Look at this young man, spending all the inheritance, but he did not spend time thinking of his father who gave him the inheritance; this is the same way as many Christians do with the gifts that the Lord

has given them. The gift of the Lord is not a treasure of this earth; love reading the Word, try to understand the Word; meditate and think about the beloved Son of God; before you follow the world, think of the One that shed His blood for you, and cleansed you until you are fit to meet with the Father.

¹⁴ And **having** spent all, there arose a **severe** famine in that country; and he began to be in want.

Comments 15:14. The severe famine here does not relate only to weather conditions but also to the Holy Spirit's gift from the Father. When not many have received this gift, they will begin to think about what happened to the Father Himself and why He withholds this gift from humans. Still, they do not think about what humans have been doing with His gifts. When the end time comes, the gift of the Holy Spirit will cease to be poured down, and everyone will be in need of it because they will expect help from the Lord.

¹⁵ And **having made his way, he kept company** to one of the citizens of that country; and he **permitted him to go** into his **property** to feed swine.

Comments 15:15. "He kept company" or gave himself is the correct meaning in this verse.

Pay attention to what the verse says; the term "kept company" also includes the fact that he joined with what the town was doing as well. And, with mercy, one of the townspeople sent him to feed the pigs. The pig is an unclean animal, and whoever is involved with them becomes unclean as well, but this person has no choice; he must take this job.

¹⁶ And he would **gladly** have filled his belly **from** the **husks** that the swine **were eating**, and no **one** gave **to** him.

Comments 15:16. Pay attention to the "filled his belly from the husks that the swine were eating." As a human, what the pig will eat, you will not eat even if you are hungry, but this man came to the point of wishing to eat what the pigs were eating because no one had mercy on him.

"And no one gave to him." We can notice from the verse, if he has been hired, he would get the payment and would not have to wish to eat the animal's food. But he gave himself for their mercy, he went to work for them, and upon the mercy of people, he will get food to eat, that what the verse tells. He joined with them and did according to what they were doing to get their mercy, but no one had compassion for him.

¹⁷ But **having come** to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father have **an abundance of bread**, **but I am perishing** here with hunger!

Comments 15:17. "But having come to himself." The Lord wants to tell everyone that when you come to yourself, it is when you realize that you, by yourself, can't make it alone. But you have someone who loves you and will give you according to your needs, regardless of earthly or spiritual; come to that One: God Almighty is the merciful One that will help you when you repent and come to ask His mercy.

"How many hired servants of my father ..." As this portion of the verse has told, all Christians should think again: when you come to the Lord with faith, do not look what someone else has, but go back to your God who has all of your needs, and you will have leftovers; don't be proud of yourself, come back home to the Lord your true Father.

¹⁸ I will **arise** and go to my father and will say **to** him, Father, I have sinned **to** heaven, and **before you**;

Comments 15:18. This verse clearly tells us that at this point, this son came to himself and admitted his sin against his father as all humans should do: confess your sins and ask forgiveness, and believe that your God is merciful and He will forgive you all your sins if you repent.

"Sinned to heaven." In this place, the saying "sinned to heaven" means sinned against the will of the Father; when God created humans, the children must obey the parents, and here, in this parable, the son did not obey the father. So, here it talks about children and parents who are believers.

When saying, "sinned to heaven," the person fights with God; when the person sinned against heaven, that person intends to fight against the Father Himself.

¹⁹ I am no **longer** worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of **your** servants.

Comments 15:19. This verse is the heart of this parable: to see yourself as not worthy but still wanting to serve the Lord God Almighty. To be "a servant of the Lord" is what the heart of all believers should be, not just enjoying God's creation. So, feel like God's servant and do according to His will. A servant will wait for the master's order; you, as Christians, also wait upon the Lord's mercy and wishes.

²⁰ And **having risen up**, he came to his father. But while he was yet far off, his father **perceived** him, and **had pity**, and **having run** fell **upon** his neck, and kissed him.

Comments 15:20. “And having risen up, he came to his father.” The verse tells that he came to his father; the repenting child has come home. The Lord wants every child of His to see this as an example as well, and when you need help, come home.

“But while he was yet afar off ... had pity.” This is an example of how the heavenly Father feels when a child repents and comes home; His heart is filled with pity for that child.

“And having run fell upon his neck, and kissed him.” So, you, as a Christian, imagine the picture when your time comes to meet the Father. You will see His arms wide open, and He will embrace you to His bosom; this is the Father’s feeling.

²¹ **Now** the son said **to** him, Father, I have sinned **to** heaven, and **before you**; I am no **longer** worthy to be called **your** son.

Comments 15:21. Now, the son is humble in the heart; all believers should take this as an example. This son has realized he is not worthy. You, as a Christian, if you don’t meditate enough in the Word, then when you are face to face with the Lord God Almighty, you will feel yourself not worthy enough because He has given you the Holy Word, but you did not meditate and use it; not only reading, meditate and follow as well.

²² **Now** the father said to his servants, Bring **out** quickly the best **apparel**, and **clothe** him; and put a ring on his hand, and **sandals** on his feet;

Comments 15:22. “Bring out quickly the best apparel, and clothe him.” When you come to heaven, the Lord Himself will clothe you with the cloth that humans cannot explain; the material that will cling to the body, and the person will feel it fits on as becoming part of the body; this cloth no one else can take it away from you, this is the cloth of heaven that belongs to you.

“And put a ring on his hand.” This part shows ownership; you become a servant of the Lord God Most High.

“And sandals on his feet.” These sandals are not the same as the human sandals are on earth, but these sandals will carry you beyond what regular sandals can do; the sandals will fit on your feet, and you will take off your sandals only when you are face to face with your Lord.

Having sandals and clothes is one of the regulations that the Lord requires. The sandals that you can use for eternity and never get old or look worn out are the sandals we all will have. The body shape that we will have cannot be exposed to everyone to be seen, so it must be clothed. The body itself will show the level that you are in heaven; that body will also have light in itself.

²³ and bring and kill the **fattened** calf, and let us eat, and make merry.

Comments 15:23. Pay attention, fattened calf, the best of the best, is brought to celebrate. In this place, it tells all readers how much happy the Lord is to see all the lost children coming home to Him. He will bring the best He has to celebrate receiving the lost children.

Q: What would the fattened calf mean in heaven’s terms? **A:** In heaven, there are no calves, but here, the Lord wants to give a comparison that shows His love for the lost sheep and the blessings that He has prepared for all as well; that is why the verse tells that the Lord uses the fatten one, which has been fed very well, has been fed with all the blessings of the Lord to make the celebration.

²⁴ For this my son was dead and is alive again; was lost, and is found. And they began to **make** merry.

Comments 15:24. The verse clearly tells us that the lost child that was dead in the eyes of the heavenly hosts has become alive with all the blessings from the Father Himself. This child was lost and now came home, and all the heavenly hosts will come and rejoice in this child. So, likewise, all the children of humans that go astray and repent will come home to the Lord.

“Was dead.” Dead here is in the state of stopping meditating on the Holy Word and following the Word; their path has been blocked (is not lit anymore), but the Lord Himself will help them. Some may go over the blockage, some go under, and some go around, but all that repent will find the way back. The path that has been blocked relates to the blockage of the light; when you lack meditation in the Word, the light for the way to walk has been blocked; it is dark, not bright anymore.

“Alive again.” Those who have repented and have invited the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts will return to life back again, for the kingdom of heaven, they must be alive with the Holy Spirit dwelling in them.

²⁵ Now, his **older** son was in the field, and as he drew **near coming** to the house, he heard music and dancing.

Comments 15:25. “Now, his older son was in the field.” The older son here relates to all the believers who have gone astray into the world of living but did not deny the Lord; they just tangled themselves with the pleasures of the world, wasting time and lacking meditation. The field here is the world of living that this believer went to tangle with. The world of living here means as the Lord created the world, He gives life for living to all creatures; that is why we use the term the world of living. But, when they go out into the world of living, the world of living has power as a magnet to pull them in; that is why they tangle with the world of living.

“And as he drew near coming to the house.” As he is wandering into the world of living, sometimes he comes close to the place where true believers are worshipping the Lord. When he comes close by, his heart will be stirred; that is what happens with all the lost children that come close to the rest of the true believers worshipping the Lord; the sense of worshipping will touch the heart of the lost one again.

“He heard music and dancing.” The sound of worship that he hears becomes a joyful noise for his soul, and the joy has returned to his heart.

Note. The younger son also did not deny the Lord (he sinned to heaven, not against heaven), but he made more terrible sins in his living.

²⁶ And he called to him one of the servants and inquired what these might be.

Comments 15:26. When this brother came and heard the music, curiosity overpowered him; he wanted to know from the deep of his soul: I am not there, but what is this sound for? So, this servant of his household will know all that happens and all the activity details; that is why he called him and inquired of him.

²⁷ And he said **to him**, **Your brother has come**; and **your father has killed the fattened calf** because he **has** received him safe and sound.

Comments 15:27. All readers can notice, in this verse, when he hears what the father has prepared for his brother, his heart itself starts to fight back inside him, and all his mind can think only about what had happened in the past. He has learned all the teachings of forgiveness, but he cannot forgive his own brother; we notice this because he is repeating the sins of the younger brother that he has done to the family (see verse 30). Even the family wants to forget, but he cannot let it happen and wants to point out to his father not to forget what he has done, and now you killed the fattened calf for him, the one who harmed you. He repeated his brother's sins in these verses, but that is against the Lord's teaching. The Lord teaches us to forgive and forget when someone does wrong to us, and this is your own brother; forgive him as well. All readers should bring this teaching and apply it to their lives.

²⁸ But he was angry and would not go in. And his father, **having come out**, **encouraged him**.

Comments 15:28. “But he was angry and would not go in.” Here, we can see the result of anger. When you do not forgive, that thing becomes a sin in your heart. By not going in to join, the verse clearly shows that he cannot forgive his brother; it shows his anger in him. All readers should pay attention to this and watch about anger.

“And his father, having come out, encouraged him.” The father here in this place is the Lord. When conflict happens, the Lord Himself will be the one who tries to bend it and bring the love back to one another; and if both listen, the peace will come upon both of them.

²⁹ But **answering**, he said to his father, **Behold, so many years I served you**, and I never **neglected your order**; and **you never gave me a young goat**, that I might make merry with my friends.

Comments 15:29. “Behold, so many years I served you, and I never neglected your order.” As the verse says, you have been serving the Lord for so long, and you always think you have never neglected the Lord in any way. But you do things expecting a reward, but with the Lord God Almighty, when you do something, do it to please Him, not expecting payment; all Christians should think this way.

“And you never gave me a young goat ...” The goat here is not just the money; he also wants the position of this earth as someone important. All have complained the same way as this one has done, and when you do things, you expect more rewards for showing off to someone else. But with the Lord God Almighty, from

above, He sees what your life will end, and at the right moment, He will interfere and help you and make all things according to His will; just believe and have faith in His mercy, and keep the faith until the end.

³⁰ But when this **your** son came, who **squandered your** living with **prostitutes**, **you killed** for him the **fattened** calf.

Comments 15:30. As the verse says, this son was not angry alone but also wanted to blame God that He is unfair because He, the Lord of mercy, has blessed the sinner who did wrong to all. So, in this verse, he pointed out to the Lord what this person's sin was, but he entirely forgot that the Lord had seen both and their sins, and He has shown mercy to both by giving them life until this day.

³¹ And he said **to** him, Son, **you are always** with me, and all that is mine is **yours**.

Comments 15:31. "All that is mine is yours" does not relate to riches but to the fact that the Lord allowed everyone to use all His created things without payment. Everyone is using and benefits from all His created things, but no one thinks of the One who has created all things, even though all can feel the presence of the Lord around them.

³² And it was **proper** to make merry and **rejoice**, **because** this **your** brother was dead, and is alive again; and was **perishing**, and is found.

Comments 15:32. Take notice of the father's answer: God the Father rejoices with all the children who repent and ask forgiveness and come back to Him; He Himself will make a celebration to show the gladness from His heart when He receives one sinner who has turned back to Him.

Q: Why has the Lord given us this parable of the father and two sons? **A:** In this parable, the Lord plainly points to all: two children from the same parents, but they have nothing alike. Everyone can use this parable to compare it with their own life. If you have a sibling and your sibling is opposite to you, read this parable and think which one of these brothers resembles you, and learn from it what it should be. All could learn from this parable.

Life and Faith Applications. 1) Our comments often emphasize the need for meditation on the Word of God; if you meditate on the Word of God, then the Word sticks to your heart, and you can practice what it should be; meditation is essential for being close to the Lord and practicing what the Word teaches. 2) If you find yourself in a lost spiritual state, repent and come back home to the Lord, and the Lord will receive you back with joy, and the whole heaven will celebrate. 3) If you have siblings and your siblings are different from you, read the parable of the father and two sons, think about which one of these siblings you are, and learn from it what you should do.