Intro: Luke 15:1-32. It was a very common sight to see large numbers of people, great multitudes, following Jesus wherever He went. Many of these could be classified as “Publicans and sinners.”

1. In fact, in verse two of our text, the Pharisees and scribes brought accusation against Jesus saying that He received and ate with sinners.
2. This accusation was never denied by Jesus.
   a. Luke 5:30-32 “But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? 31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. 32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
   b. Here, however, Jesus met their charges with three parables.

I. The Meaning and Reason For Parables.
   A. Parable comes from the Greek παραβολή (parabole) meaning to place or lay beside, to compare.
   B. Much of Christ’s teaching was done with parables; truly one of the greatest methods of teaching.
   C. In this passage three parables were presented.
      1. Verses 4-7. The lost sheep.
      2. Verses 8-10. The lost coin.
   D. These three parables were designed to show the Pharisees and scribes why He associated with sinners. Three truths are emphasized.
      1. Show the Lord’s deep concern and love for the lost.
         a. John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
         b. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
         c. Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
         d. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
         e. Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
         f. 1 Cor. 15:3 “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;”
         g. Never should we be deluded into thinking that our Lord does not care!
      2. Emphasize the love therefore that we His disciples should also have for the lost.
         a. Phi. 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
b. 1 Pet. 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”
c. The “great commission.”

3. But more, these parables also depict three different types of sinners.
   a. Sin is sin, but some sinners are further from God than others.
   b. Mark 12:34 “And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.”

II. **THE SINFERS OF THE THREE PARABLES.**

A. **The lost coin. Luke 15:8-10**
   1. The sinner is compared to a coin that is lost.
   2. What does this parable teach?
      a. If a dime is thrown into the weeds and lost it becomes a lost coin, yet it does not realize it is lost. It feels the same as if it were in the pocket.
      
      b. Many today are lost and do not realize it.

B. **The lost sheep. Luke 15:4-7**
   1. The sinner is compared to a sheep lost.
   2. Just as there is a difference between a sheep and a coin, so also a different type of sinner is represented.
      a. Sheep, unlike a coin, know when they are lost but does not know the way back to safety.
      b. Many are in this condition.
         (1) Acts 2: the Jews did not know they were lost, then came to realize they were lost but did not know what to do.
         (2) Acts 9: Saul of Tarsus did not know he was lost, then asked what to do because he did not know the way back to safety.
         (3) So many are today are in this same condition.

C. **The lost son.**
   1. He was lost, knew he was lost, knew also the way back.
   2. The same is true today of many; they as the son, need only to make up their minds to return.

Conclusion: If you are lost (whatever your condition) realize your need to be saved and come to Jesus Christ.