

Easter 2018
The Friend of Sinners

Jesus is the friend of sinners - Luke 15:1-3 (NLT)

How do we get lost?

Story of lost sheep / coin / son.

1. Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4-7)

Unintentionally lost (Mistakes and the busyness of life)

- People drift
- Great value to God (to turn your bad into good)
- God pursues you for good
- Calls his friends and rejoices (Luke 15:7 NLT)

2. Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)

Unexpectedly lost (Circumstance)

- Unexpected casualty of sin
- Great value to God
- God pursues you for good
- Calls her friends and rejoices (Luke 15:10 NLT)

3. Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Poor lifestyle **choices**

- He takes **personal responsibility** for his sins and doesn't play the blame game.
Repent - "I have sinned against both heaven and you." (Luke 15:21)
Return - "I will go home to my father." (Luke 15:18)
Rejoice - "Filled with love and compassion he ran to his son..." (Luke 15:20)
We are too great a creation for sin
Great value to God (Robe, ring and shoes)

4. Older boy is angry! (Luke 15:25-32)

Religion and Judgement

- "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in." Luke 15:28
He was offended at grace! REALLY? Offended at God for mercy! WOW!
- We rejoice, we don't judge or condemn. (Luke 15:32 NLT)

Take Away

1. Despite your circumstance or situation – you are of great **value** to God.
2. Jesus wants to be your friend.
3. **Repent** (of sin) and **Return** (to God).
4. We and all of heaven **Rejoice!**