



Questions

Study Procedure: Read the scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God’s wisdom and understanding as you study and don’t be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One: Review of Luke Chapters 13 and 14 matching

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|---|------------------------|
| _____ 1. The tower that fell on 18 | a) Jerusalem |
| _____ 2. The fate of the fig tree | b) The mustard seed |
| _____ 3. Number of years the woman was bent over | c) Carrying a cross |
| _____ 4. Example of outward development of Kingdom | d) Narrow gate |
| _____ 5. The way of salvation | e) One more year |
| _____ 6. A city Jesus loved | f) Salt without flavor |
| _____ 7. One of the lame excuses for not going to the feast | g) Siloam |
| _____ 8. Picture of salvation | h) Eighteen |
| _____ 9. Description of discipleship | i) Just married a wife |
| _____ 10. Synonym for useless | j) A great banquet |



Day Two: Read Luke 15

- From the opening verses, what groups were in the audience that day? _____

- What was the underlying reason behind the complaint of the Pharisees and scribes against Jesus? _____
- Jesus began each of the three parables in this chapter by mentioning the person involved in finding the lost items or persons. Write down whatever you discover in the three parables about the personality or intent of each "finder."
 - A man _____
 - A woman _____
 - A father _____

Day Three: Luke 15 continued

1. Based on the parables He had just told, what did Jesus want His audience to know about
 - a) His love? _____

 - b) their prejudices? _____

2. For all his good behavior, the elder brother had no closer relationship with his father than his rebellious younger brother. Write down any phrases that reveal the condition of the elder brother's heart. _____

3. Of whom do you think Jesus was thinking when he spoke of
 - a) the prodigal son? _____
 - b) the elder brother? _____
 - c) the loving father? _____



MEMORY: LUKE 16:10, 13, 16-17

Day Four: Read Luke 16:1-13

1. To whom did Jesus tell the parable of the unjust steward? _____

2. Since the rich man was mentioned first (v.1), the main point of the parable should come from his reactions to the activities of his shrewd steward. Find the rich man's reactions and record them below.
 - a) 16:2 _____

 - b) 16:8 _____

3. We know Jesus was not promoting dishonesty, but what was it that He wanted His disciples to learn from this parable? _____

4. In Jesus' day, who had been entrusted with the management of God's resources and with what results? _____

Day Five: Read Luke 16:14-31

1. Who did not like these teachings of Jesus and why? _____

2. What did Jesus tell the Pharisees they had had in the past and had now presently that should have helped them receive the inward changes they so desperately needed? (vs.16,17)

3. What truths about life after death had the rich man of the parable failed to consider? (T or F)

- _____ a) Riches are a sure sign of God's approval.
 _____ b) Poverty is a sure sign of God's approval.
 _____ c) God sees the heart of man and judges accordingly.
 _____ d) Death does not bring extinction to any human soul.
 _____ e) Death ends all opportunity for choosing salvation.
 _____ f) Greater torment will be added when those kept from the knowledge of God's truth by another join him in torment.
 _____ g) (Add your own thoughts here) _____

4. From God's point of view, which man in the parable was really rich? _____

5. Now take a few minutes to read your study notes for this lesson.

Notes

Lost and Found (Luke 15-16)

Seeking the Lost

Chapter 15 began with a description of the crowd listening to Jesus: *"Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him."* The Pharisees and scribes were also present and complained that Jesus seemed to enjoy eating and talking with ungodly characters. To understand the situation better, imagine that you were in a large auditorium surrounded by your Bible study friends and Jesus came in. Suppose He was suddenly surrounded by another large group whom you recognized as dishonest businessmen and tradesmen, gang members, and even a group of prisoners out on parole. Instead of excusing Himself and coming right over to your group, He smiled, talked, and actually looked like He enjoyed the very people that had cheated and terrorized your community. How would you feel? Actually, you should be thrilled that the ones who needed it most were hearing the Word of God and responding to the gospel. But, probably, you would wonder why He was wasting His precious time and attention on such a bunch

of losers. We just cannot naturally understand His pure love. The three parables Jesus told to help His audience understand His actions can still help us, too, to get a better look at the kind of supernatural love He has for every single person.

**A Man and
a Sheep**
(Luke 15:4-7)

Even though a man had ninety-nine of his sheep present and accounted for, he was not satisfied until he recovered the one that was lost. He searched for it, found it, put it on his shoulders, carried it back, and called for others to help him rejoice over its return. Some of the people Jesus seeks are like that sheep, having wandered away because of some selfish pursuit, finding themselves ignorant of or unable to find the right way home. Jesus cares enough to seek them out, one by one.

**A Woman
and a Coin**
(Luke 15:8-10)

A woman lost one of her ten silver coins. Some familiar with Jewish customs think that it might have been part of her wedding headdress or **dowry** and would be similar to a married woman in our day losing a diamond from her wedding ring set. She looked diligently, using extra light and a broom, until she found it. She, too, rejoiced and called others to help her celebrate. Like the coin, some of Jesus's listeners were "out of circulation" due to the carelessness of others. Maybe they had never had true teaching about God when they were younger. Maybe they had been discouraged by the poor example of those responsible for leading them. Whatever the reason, they were useless to the work of the Lord as long as they were lost. Jesus came for that kind of person, as well.

**A Father and
Two Sons**
(Luke 15:11-32)

The younger son showed no appreciation or respect for his father. He took his share of the inheritance and spent it in prodigal or wasteful living. Alone and desperate, he remembered what it was like at his father's home. He returned to request a position with the servants. His father saw him coming, ran to meet him, and heard at least part of his confession. To show his forgiveness, the father ordered a robe, a ring, sandals, and a feast for the son. He joyfully celebrated his son's safe return. The tax-collectors may have identified with the son. This part of the parable illustrated God's love even for the willful sinner who had deliberately caused pain to others with his actions, but this was not all. The parable continued with a demonstration of the father's loving concern for the law-abiding elder brother who would not forgive the younger for his wasteful ways. The father came out of the feast to seek that brother and urge him to join the party. Jesus was expressing through this part of the parable that He understood the feelings of the Pharisees and scribes and that they had a place in His heart, too. They were not enjoying the riches and

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<p>dowry - money or property brought by a bride to her husband at marriage</p>

fellowship of their Heavenly Father any more than the prodigal had in the pig pen. Both sons needed to repent and return to the Father and receive forgiveness. Because the elder only compared himself to the younger brother, he could not see his own failures. However, God looks at each person individually, and even the best outward behavior cannot hide from Him the unloving, sinful heart.

Warning to Disciples
(Luke 16:1-9)

Jesus used a rather strange parable to teach his disciples about the right use of money or other earthly resources. A rich man found out that his manager or steward was being dishonest in handling the rich man's business. He called for an **audit** and removed the man from the position. However, the steward did some fast figuring and made a few last-minute appointments with people who owed his boss money. While he still had the opportunity, he reduced their bills, which further cheated his master, but made him very popular. He hoped such a move would make those people he "helped" want to help him when he was without his job. His master, the rich man, heard about it and commended or complimented the steward on his clever actions. Jesus added, "*For the sons of this world are more **shrewd** in their generation than the sons of light.*" Now, we know Jesus was not suggesting that we should be dishonest in any way, but He was making one main point. As the master appreciated the shrewdness of the steward in using what was available to him for his future good, so Jesus would have His disciples use carefully what was available to them in the way of earthly resources to do things that would give them riches in heaven. The following passage from 1 Timothy 6:17-19 explained this: "*Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life.*"

audit - an examination of accounts or records to check their accuracy

shrewd - tricky, having keen insight

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Only One Boss
(Luke 16:10-13)

The teaching continued with a warning that they could not expect to be trusted with more until they had proven trustworthy with the gifts, resources, and opportunities that they were entrusted with at that time. The focus of the disciples was to only be on the will of God. They could not begin to think of satisfying themselves or their own greed and expect to stay right with God. "*No servant can serve two masters...*"

Facing the Pharisees
(Luke 16:14-18)

The Pharisees, Luke recorded, loved money and so were offended by Jesus' teachings. He confronted them. "*You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your*

hearts." God hated the evil He saw them try to hide from the world. They had no excuse. The Scriptures had been available to them, and since John the Baptist, they had even had the clear, direct teaching of Jesus Himself. With their far-fetched interpretations of God's Law, they had tried to cover their sins, but every **"tittle"** and every word of the Scriptures would be proven true. Jesus gave the example of God's simple Law about divorce which they had corrupted to make it cover a man's right to divorce a wife for spoiling his supper or speaking too loudly. Jesus was seeking the lost everywhere, but those who refused to repent, like the Pharisees, would face severe judgment.

**No Second
Chance**
(Luke 16:19-31)

To illustrate how serious it was for anyone to hear the truth of Jesus and refuse to repent and believe, Jesus told a story about two men who died. One had been a rich man who had enjoyed all the earthly luxuries his money could buy.

The other, named Lazarus, was a poor, sick man who longed for even the crumbs from the rich man's table. The rich man had had no relationship with God, while Lazarus evidently had responded to God's truth. At their deaths, the rich man went to a place of **torment** while Lazarus was comforted by Abraham himself. After his earthly death, the rich man still existed, but in torment and with the realization that Lazarus had chosen the better way. He wanted a drink, but there was no crossing over from one place to another. He wanted to send word through Lazarus to his brothers, but Abraham told him, *"They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them...if they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."* This is a sobering story for many in our day who have **access** to the Scriptures' clear teaching and godly examples but still refuse to turn to God. There will be a day, sadly, when they will see their error but will be unable to correct it. Like the rich man in the story, they have reason to fear that their torment will only increase when others join them who were led astray by their example or lack of leadership.

tittle - the smallest writing mark in the Hebrew language

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torment - great physical pain or mental anguish

access - a means of approaching