



Luke 15:1 – 19:27

First Presbyterian Church Charlotte

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- What's in these Chapters?
- What are some of the themes?
- What are messages for us today?

- A thorough overview,
- with focus on a couple of passages.
- Open with prayer.

Forgiveness and Redemption!

- What do we learn about God's Love?
- Who does God seek and forgive?

- Should we ask for forgiveness?
- What should be our response to being forgiven?
- What should be our response to others being forgiven?
- When, how, and who should we forgive?

- What could hinder our responses above?
- What is our responsibility to respond?

Luke 15: The Lost and Found Parables

- 15:1-2. Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”
- 15:3-7. The Lost Sheep (Leaves 99 to seek lost 1, rejoices when found.)
- 15:8-10. The Lost Coin (Loses 1 of 10, seeks, finds, rejoices!)
 - Rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents.
- 15:11-32. The Lost Son
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJmPCz8wUeA>

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Luke 16: More Difficult Parables

- 16:1-15. The Shrewd Manager
 - There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions, so will be fired.
 - Manager visits debtors and reduces the debts owed to the master.
 - Master commended the dishonest manager because he acted shrewdly.
 - Yale theologians not sure even Luke understands what to do with this.
 - Use worldly wealth for eternal purpose. You cannot serve both God and money.
 - About forgiveness?
 - Perhaps debt-reduction was Jewish law OR only cancelled commission.
- 16:19-31. The Rich Man and beggar Lazarus
 - Riches and self-importance can be hinderance to responding to God's love.
 - "neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Luke 17: Forgiveness and the Ten Lepers

- 17:3-4. So watch yourselves. “If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”
- 17:11-19. On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Luke 18: Who does Jesus love or commend?

- 17:18-19. Samaritan who thanks Jesus for healing.
- 18:1-8. Parable of persistent widow as model of always praying.
- 18:9-14. Tax collector who says 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'
- 18:15-17. Children and infants, Kingdom of God belongs to such.
- 18:18-30. The Rich Young Ruler ("loved him" in Mark 10:21) offered discipleship but required selling and leaving possessions.
- 18:35-43. Blind beggar at Jericho, healed, he followed glorifying God.
- 19:1-10. Zacchaeus, chief tax collector; Jesus invites, Zacchaeus offers restitution for over-collecting (admitting need for forgiveness and forgiving others' debts).

Bonus: Responsibility to Respond

- 19:11-27. Parable of the Ten Minas (Talents, Pounds). Matt 25:14-30.
 - Master to go on long journey, call in 10 servants.
 - Each was entrusted with 1 Mina (large) to be “put to work until I come back.”
 - Upon return,
 - First earned 10 more, praised and entrusted with more.
 - Second earned 5 more, praised and entrusted with more.
 - Third hid and returned the 1, scolded and the 1 taken away.
- 17:5-10. To Apostles doing the work: don't expect reward, realize you are unworthy and doing what is expected.
- 17:20-37. Kingdom of God is already (“in your midst”) but not yet (second coming like lightning). Be ready.

Discussion Questions:

- What **idea, parable, or story** from the study of **Luke 15-19** is meaningful to you today?
- Can you honestly ask for forgiveness and return thankfulness?
- Who do you need to forgive? Accept as forgiven? Even when hard?

Share your thoughts!