

The Celebration of Heaven

1. Jesus' ministry as an outworking of God's own purposes.
2. Jesus' call to join Him in welcoming God's own attitude towards sinners.

The criticism:

Luke 15:1-2 - *Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."* NIV

Luke 14:12-14 - *Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."* NIV

Luke 15:8-10 - *"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* NIV

All three parables share a **common sequence**, moving from what a main character **"has"** to its **loss**, **recovery and restoration**, and the **celebration** that follows.

- In the divine economy the repentance of sinners is grounds for celebration.

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

1. Enlarge Our Sense Of Urgency.
 2. Increase Our Efforts To Win The Lost.
 3. Make Efforts To Be With Those Who Are In Need.
 4. Capture God's Heart For The Lost, The Restored, And The Celebration Of Heaven.
- Jesus' practices at the table found his critics under scrutiny for their failure to become faithful shepherds.
 - Jesus' table fellowship revealed the heavenly celebration that follows the repentance of a sinner.
 - Jesus assumed that lost sheep are restored by the labors of shepherds and that sinners are restored by repentance.