A large, ancient tree with a thick trunk and dense canopy, set against a cloudy sky. The tree is the central focus of the image, with its branches spreading out across the top and sides. The ground is a flat, grassy field.

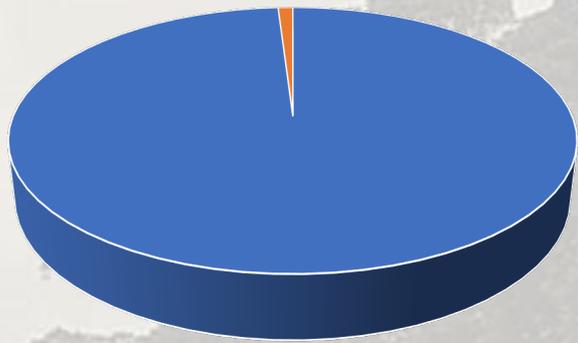
[PARABLES]

WHAT JESUS SAID & WHY HE SAID IT

THE SETTING

By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

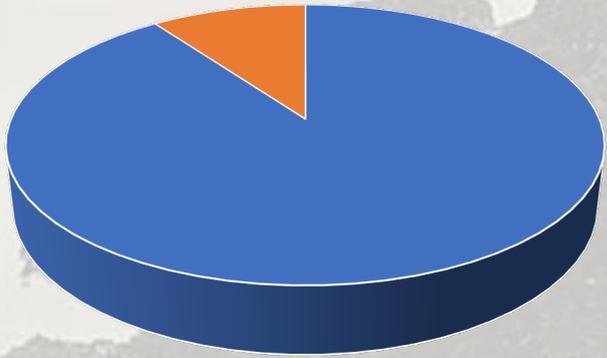
Luke 15:1-3 MESSAGE



LOST SHEEP

Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!' Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

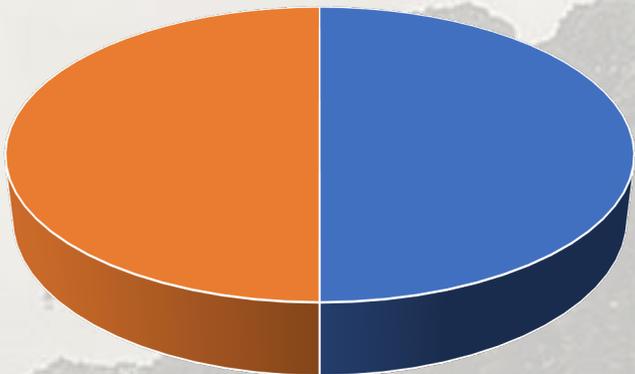
Luke 15:4-7



LOST COIN

Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.

Luke 15:8-10



LOST SON

Then he said, There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country...

Luke 15:11-19

ACCEPTED

FATHERS RESPONSE

When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, kissed him...

Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!' And they began to have a wonderful time.

Luke 15:20-24

[PARABLES]

REJECTED

OTHER SON

The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen...

Luke 15:28-30

THE POINT

His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate.

This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive!

He was lost, and he's found!

Luke 15:30-32



THE POINT

Jesus came to seek and save the lost!

Luke 19:10

