

PUBLIC JESUS: *Three Lost Things*
Luke 15: 1-2 and 25-32

i. Have you ever found yourself bemoaning how bad things are that you miss the beautiful right in front of your eyes?

THIS IS THE STORY OF THREE LOST AND FOUND THINGS (with the possibility of two more)...

I. THE LOST SHEEP (1-7)

- A. The muttering masses
- B. A person leaves 99 sheep to find the lost one.
- C. The party in heaven.
- D. Jesus' idea of repentance is different.

II. THE LOST COIN (8-10)

- A. The ten coins could have been her IRA or her dowry.
- B. Leaves the 90% to find the 10%.
- C. The party again.

III. THE LOST SON (11-24)

- A. The father was shamed five times in public.
- B. Burned through the cash and "came to his senses."
- C. The pig thing.
- D. The son was lost four times over—rock bottom.

IV. THE REALLY LOST SON (25-32)

- A. He could only see the bad and was blind to the beauty.
- B. "Slaving away" and "I've never disobeyed a single command of yours."
- C. What happened to the older brother?

V. THE PHARISEES, THE OLDER BROTHER, YOU AND ME ...

- A. Someone is always in the front or back muttering how bad things are.
- B. No matter how dark life seems, God is always making beautiful things.
- C. God's love, generosity and forgiveness is always pursuing people who we don't think deserve it nor do they expect it...BUT it does not mean there isn't any left for the Pharisees, the older brother, me or you.

Question to leave you hanging, like the story leaves us hanging: Which character in these stories best represents you?