



## REPLENISHED – Recovery Matters 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

### Connect:

1. What do the words recovery and retrieval mean?
2. Read [Luke 19:10](#)
3. Read and discuss [Luke 15:1-2](#) (These are 2 verses that launched 3 Parables)
  - Jesus put Himself in the place where the lost could be found. A place where they could have a glimpse of the Father through Himself.
  - Many would have had no idea about the Father (Read [John 14:9](#))

### Engage:

4. Read and discuss [Luke 15:3-5](#)
5. Does a sheep deliberately become lost?
  - Same parable in [Matthew 18:12-14](#) (just after the children came to Jesus...)
  - Situation “Leaving the safe to search for the vulnerable”
  - This tells us that *“Jesus is focussed on a mission, not on maintenance”*

### Framework:

6. Read [Ezekiel 34:16](#)
  - Sheep are prone to wander and are unable to defend themselves against wolves; they need a shepherd!
  - A lost sheep cannot find its way back (we just think we can).
7. Jesus is the shepherd (Read [John 10:11](#))
8. We are the sheep (Read [1 Peter 2:25](#) and [Isaiah 53:6](#))
  - God counts us all – He knows when one is lost and will look for the one. When the sheep is lost it’s not beaten or reprimanded, but cared for. It is carried (lifted up from the lost place and carried, it is brought close to Him and kept safe).
  - The shepherd rejoices when one sheep is found, just as Heaven celebrates when one is recovered.
9. **Read [Luke 15:8-10](#) – Why a coin?**

- This may allude to Middle Eastern / Jewish culture, where coins formed part of the woman's headdress; being part of her dowry and were worn constantly.
  - This was something similar in meaning to a modern wedding ring, and it would be considered a disaster for her to lose one of those coins.
    - a. *Symbol of identity, inheritance, commitment, future.*
    - b. *If one is lost the set of ten is incomplete – the remaining 9 would be affected*
  - From a general perspective:
    - c. One silver coin represented a day's work
    - d. The coin didn't lose itself – someone else did that - carelessness?
    - e. The coin is not aware it's lost
  - 'House' speaks of safety – a person can still be 'lost' in a safe place!
  - The coin would fall to the floor, perhaps kicked aside accidentally and rolled into a dark/dirty corner. The value is still in the coin, but its value will not be realised until it's found!
  - Church - like the woman, must remove all obstacles to find the coin.
  - Heaven celebrates just as we celebrate, when the coin is found.
10. Have you been handled carelessly by someone? What was it like?
11. Have you handled someone carelessly? Why?

**“You never know how important something is until you lose it.”**

*Pastor Mark Wiltshire*

12. Do you feel lost right now?
13. How important is finding a lost person to you personally?
- 14. Read [Luke 15:11-13](#) – Why Two Sons?**
15. This parables expressions are quoted in life:
- a. *'The prodigal son' is used widely "one who has gone off track, wasteful and reckless".*
  - b. *'Kill the fatted calf' used to express a time of celebration*
- Comparing 2 situations (2 sons) verse 12-16
    - c. *Youngest – reckless life (wasted 1/3 of the estate)*
    - d. *Oldest – steady, loyal life (worked to rebuild the loss) verse 29*
  - Comparing 2 responses
    - e. *Youngest – came to his senses – humble responsibility verses 17-24*
    - f. *Youngest – resented the restoration verses 25-30*
16. Why does money not buy a person true happiness?
- 17. Read [Luke 15:14-17](#) – Lost Son**
- Life's tough circumstances bring defining moments
  - Having to work to survive – starving, unable to earn enough to eat
  - A Jew working for a Gentile, caring for pigs (unclean animals - Leviticus 11:7; Deuteronomy 14:8; Isaiah 65:4 & 66:17, he can sink NO lower!)
  - Pig food (the pod of the carob-tree) even looked tasty to him!
  - The father is still there even though he is a long distance away.
  - We often need to get to a place where we realise we need Christ!

**18. Read [Luke 15:18-21](#) – The cold reality**

- Returning to the father was a matter of life and death.
- God is waiting for us to come home.
- God waits to see if we will walk towards Him – He never forces us.
- God is always looking out...He moves to us as we move to Him.

**19. Read [Luke 15:22-25](#) – The Return of the Prodigal**

- In His grace He fully accepts us – in our filth and smell
- He restores us personally,
  - a. We recover our dignity and honour (robe),
  - b. Identity as a son and heir with authority (ring)
  - c. Status – free man (sandals) – no longer a servant

**20. Read [Luke 15:27-30](#) – The Lost Older Son (Resentment)**

- Older son – filled with anger and resentment – became Territorial
- Wasn't willing to embrace his brother, or give him another chance
- Like Pharisees, *could not comprehend the meaning of forgiveness*

21. Read and discuss [Luke 15:31-32](#)

“One of the hardest things in the world is to stop being the prodigal son without turning into the elder brother.”

*Pastor John Ortberg*

22. What may cause someone to have a response like this?

**Conclusion:**

These parables reveal God's heart about recovery, restoration and celebration. God loves to celebrate.

- In your darkest moments, will you turn to God or turn from Him?
- Just like the Pharisees (verse 2), we can be so caught up in our own needs and self-interest that we miss the “recovery of others...”

**Note:** *“If something is important to us, we find a way. If it's not, we always find an excuse.”*

**Recovery Matters – Jesus emphasised it - 3 different ways!**

1. Perhaps you've been distracted in life and found yourself lost
2. Perhaps you've been handled badly and realise you're lost
3. Perhaps you've turned your back on God and gone your own way

**Today can be a day for restoration and recovery!**