BUT WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT IT?
"What Did Jesus Say About God?" Luke 15:1-32

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The Pharisees got many things right about God, but the objections they raised about Jesus' behavior reflected an inability or unwillingness to accept what the Father is really like.

I. The Setting. vv. 1-2
- A. The challenge of Jesus to discipleship requires "hearing." 14:35, v. 1
- B. The criticisms of those who disapproved of His lifestyle. v. 2
  1. A misunderstanding of mission.
  2. A misapprehension of God.

II. The Parables.
- A. The lost sheep. vv. 3-7
  1. Sheep get lost.
  2. Shepherds seek them.
  3. Celebration is in order when the lost sheep is recovered.
- B. The lost coin. vv. 8-10
  1. The coin was valuable to the owner and worth seeking.
  2. Seeking requires effort.
  3. Recovered coin is a cause for rejoicing.
- C. The lost son. vv. 11-32
  1. Moral and spiritual collapse, and redemption.
     - a. A selfish request; a selfless response.
     - b. A squandered life; a squalid end.
     - c. A sensitive awakening; a sensible decision.
     - d. A spectacular welcome; a sincere repentance.
  2. Moral indignation and spiritual deprivation.
     - a. Joyless servitude vs. a joyful attitude.
     - b. Angry exclusiveness vs. accepting inclusiveness.

III. The Point.
- A. The Pharisaic perception of God.
  1. One who rewards strict, legalistic lifestyles.
  2. One who is unmoved, unforgiving, and unrelenting toward sinners.
- B. The mission of Jesus as a reflection of God.
  1. He is willing to associate with sinners…
     - a. …who recognize "lostness."
     - b. …who wish for "foundness."
  2. He is ready to initiate a search and rescue.
  3. He is eager to celebrate the recovery of the lost.
  4. He is anxious to incorporate the offended and the angry.

Points to Ponder: How close is my perception of God to Jesus' revelation of Him?