

Luke 15:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

Analysis

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me (συγκαλεῖ τοὺς φίλους καὶ τοὺς γείτονας, synkalei tous philous kai tous geitonas)—The verb synkaleō (συγκαλέω, to call together) indicates a celebration gathering. The imperative 'Rejoice with me' (syncharēte moi, συγχαρήτε μοι) means 'rejoice together with me'—the shepherd's joy demands communal participation.

For I have found my sheep which was lost (ὅτι εὑρον τὸ πρόβατόν μου τὸ ἀπολωλός, hoti heuron to probaton mou to apolōlos)—Possession ('my sheep') shows relationship, not mere property. The perfect participle apolōlos (ἀπολωλός, having been lost) emphasizes the previous state. Jesus rebukes the Pharisees' joyless response to repentant sinners. Their grumbling (v.2) contrasts sharply with heaven's celebration. Finding the lost is not embarrassing scandal but cause for communal rejoicing.

Historical Context

First-century Mediterranean culture was collectivist, not individualist. Joy and sorrow were shared communally. A shepherd returning with a lost sheep would naturally gather neighbors for celebration, both to testify to his diligence and to share his relief. This social context intensifies Jesus's critique: the Pharisees refused to join God's celebration over repentant sinners, isolating themselves from

heaven's joy. Their absence from the party revealed their alienation from God's heart.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you genuinely rejoice when 'unlikely' people come to faith, or do you subtly resent God's grace to those you consider undeserving?
2. How should the church's corporate worship reflect heaven's celebration over every repentant sinner?
3. What does your response to others' conversions reveal about whether you understand grace as scandalous gift or earned reward?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐλθὼν	εἰς	τὸ	οἶκον	συγκαλεῖ	τὸ	
And	when he cometh	G1519	which	home	he calleth together	which	
G2532	G2064		G3588	G3624	G4779	G3588	
φίλους	καὶ	τὸ	γείτονας	λέγων	αὐτοῖς,	Συγχαρήτέ	
his friends	And	which	neighbours	saying	unto them	Rejoice	
G5384	G2532	G3588	G1069	G3004	G846	G4796	
μοι	ὅτι	εὔρον	τὸ	πρόβατόν	μου	τὸ	ἀπολωλός
with me	for	I have found	which	sheep	my	which	was lost
G3427	G3754	G2147	G3588	G4263	G3450	G3588	G622

Additional Cross-References

Luke 15:10 (Parallel theme): Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 15:24 (Parallel theme): For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

1 Peter 2:25 (Parallel theme): For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Acts 11:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Psalms 119:176 (Parallel theme): I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Acts 15:3 (Parallel theme): And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

John 3:29 (Parallel theme): He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Luke 15:7 (Parallel theme): I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Philippians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.