

Jesus Welcomes Sinners

"Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, 'This Man receives sinners and eats with them.' So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:1-10)

Jesus welcomes sinners! He "did not come to call the righteous but sinners unto repentance" (Luke 5:32). Don't ever feel that you have sinned so much that God cannot forgive you and restore you. The bible says that "if we confess our sins, that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9) and "if any man sins we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Go to Him today for cleansing and forgiveness. He is willing to receive you like the prodigal son. Read Luke 15:11-32, the story of The Prodigal Son. God is willing to receive you back into His fold. Jesus said "that there is joy in heaven when one sinner repents" (Luke 15:7). Go to Him today. Do not delay!

Father, forgive us and cleanse us from all sin. Bring back those who have gone astray back into Your fold. Show them that You are more than willing to receive them. In Jesus name. Amen.

Written in the Fall of 2004 after the Lord showed me His faithfulness and His eagerness to receive me back after I have sinned.