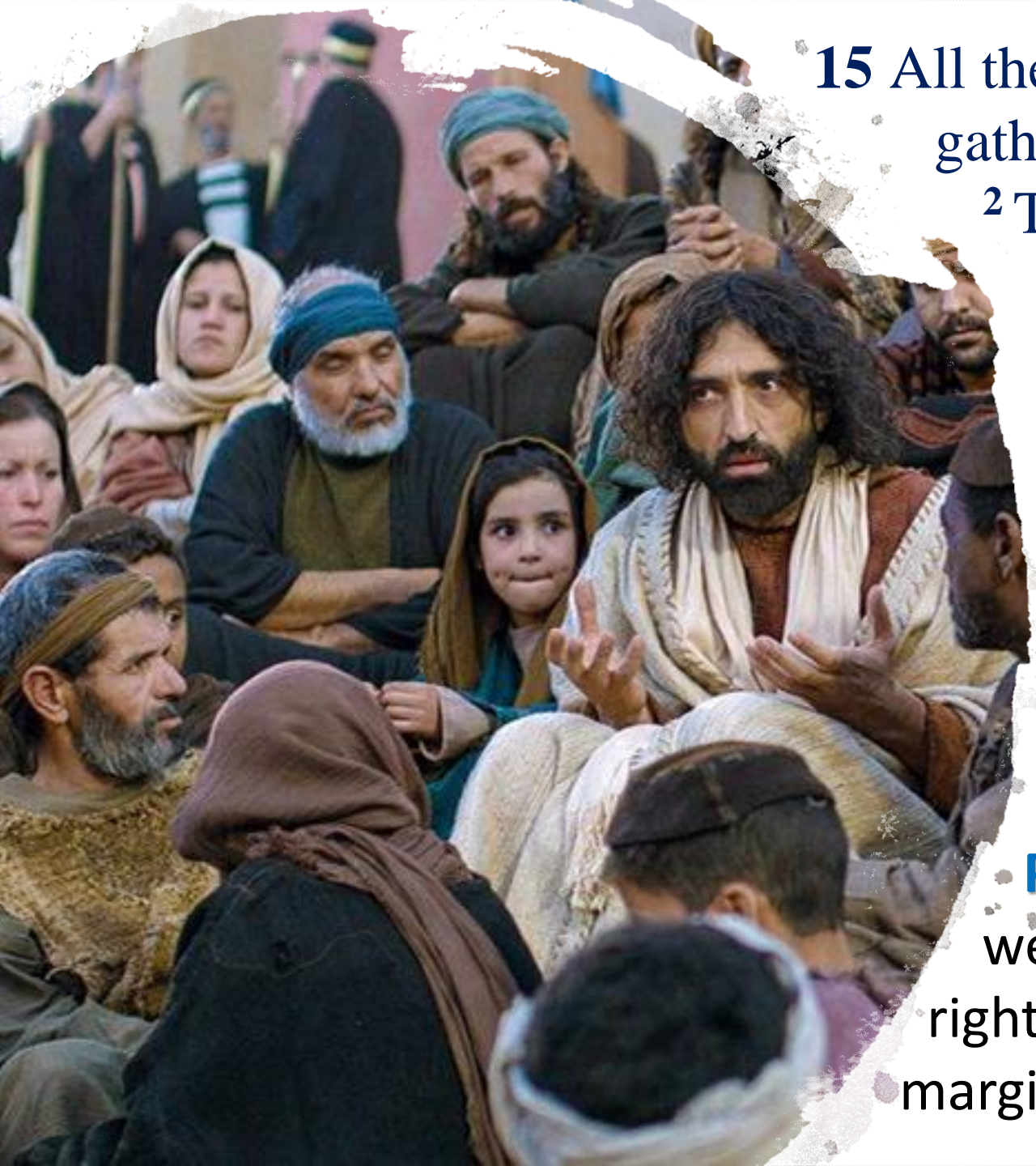




September 15, 2019

**Luke 15:1-10
(CEB)**

“Noticing: A Gift”



15 All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him.

² The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Tax Collectors & Sinners: Those who work for Rome, still in the temple, keep some of the covenant, selfish, removed themselves from the common welfare.

Pharisees & Legal Expert: Those who were elevated in society, respected, righteous, temple leaders, distant from the marginal of the faith.

Tax Collectors, Sinners, Pharisees, & Legal Experts.

Jewish people, one and all.

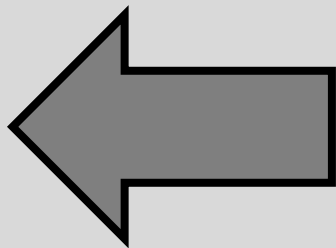
Jewish people of some means.

Jewish people both looking down on each other.

Jewish people of different classes.

Jewish people with varied degrees of faithfulness.

One group
knows they
are flawed.



One group
knows
“They” are
flawed.



³ Jesus told them this parable:

⁴ “Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them.

Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for **the lost one** until he finds it?

⁵ And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘**Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.**’

⁷ **In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.**



100 sheep is a large & busy heard owned by someone of means.

Noticing one missing sheep would take careful attention.

Risking 99 for 1 would take a willingness to sacrifice.

The resulting celebration was not in the finding of the “Lost Sheep”, rather in noticing that the “Sheep was Lost”.

Noticing who/what is new.
Noticing what isn't working.
Noticing who/what is different.
Noticing who is sad or happy



Noticing is first step toward an answer.

8 “**O**r what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won’t light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it?

9 When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘**Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost coin.**’ 10 **In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life.”**



Plenty of coins,
the means to through a party.

Noticing one mission coin
would take careful attention.

Pausing the norm
to find the missing piece seems to matter.

The resulting celebration
was not in the finding of the
“**Lost Coin**”,
rather in noticing that the
“**Coin was Lost**”.



Noticing is a Gift
because it is not always
natural.



Those who give what they can.

Those who join the small group, give
just a bit more, & smile in worship.

Those who seem happy, make them
leaders.

These Short Stories by Jesus for us!

The audience is us; those who belong.

The message is that there is still discovery to be made.

The uncertainty is whether we will notice/discover a missing piece.

The surrounding joy comes from noticing/realizing our wrongness & changing how we think.

When our righteousness seems validated by someone else's wrongness to prove our point, we live with a missing piece.

