

## Luke 15:2

*And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."*

The Pharisees were complaining in today's devotional verse because Jesus was hanging out and eating with sinners. "*This Man receives sinners and eats with them.*" Basically, they felt it was wrong or they would be defiled if they hung out with the wrong crowd (sinners). But Jesus addressed this with the following parable that He spoke to them.

† **Luke 15:3-7** *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."*

If you read Jesus' response and this parable correctly, the reason you would go get your lost sheep, was not to hang out with them, or do the same things they are doing, but actually to save them from harm and even death. Because a lost sheep that is out on its own, could soon be prey to a lion or a bear that would kill the lost sheep.

So even though people read this and think that it's okay for them to hang out with their old friends in bars, and do things, and say things a Christian should not be involved in. They need to read it again and see why Jesus hung out with them. Verse 7 tells us why Jesus hung out with sinners.

† **Luke 15:7** *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.*

As I read this, I believe that Jesus hung out with them, not to partake of their sins, but to actually save them from their sins. "*there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents*" Like we read earlier, someone would go get their lost sheep to save it, not to eat grass and do sheep things with it. Jesus also hung out with the lost, to save them, not to party with them.

Remember even Jesus, the Great Physician, said, "*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.*" **Mark 2:17b**

A physician cannot treat a patient if he or she does not see the patient, and spends time and talks with the patient. Remember that a physician does not go to a patient to get what the patient has,

but to heal them of what they have. The same is true of the physician's assistant, they don't help the physician by getting what the patient has, but assisting in the physician healing the patient.

So, as the weekend is coming up, and you are planning on hanging out with your old friends who are not saved. Be like Jesus, and don't hang with them to be like them, but hang with them because they need Jesus, and think of yourself as the Great Physician's assistant. The assistant is the one who brings the patient to the physician, and the only way they will see Jesus is if you bring Jesus along with you to meet them and heal them of their sins.

† **John 1:40-42a** *One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.*