

Repentance Produces Joy in Heaven
(Luke 15:7)

Introduction:

1. This morning: "God commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).
2. This evening we are concentrating on a principle that the Lord revealed in Luke 15:7 -- "repentance produces joy in heaven."
3. In Luke 15 Jesus presented 3 parables to illustrate this principle.

Discussion:

- I. LET US DETERMINE WHY JESUS PRESENTED THESE PARABLES
 - A. The situation that prompted Jesus to relate these parables is revealed in vs.1-2.
 - B. Vs.1 shows how the publicans and sinners came to Jesus to hear Him.
 1. Jesus came to save such people as these (Luke 5:27-32; 19:10).
 2. Many publicans and sinners repented and became followers of Christ.
 - C. Vs.2 shows how the Pharisees and scribes felt.
 1. They murmured because Jesus received sinners and ate with them.
 2. It is sad, but hypocrites have a way of trying to ruin good things that happen.
 - D. To illustrate how joy is experienced in heaven when sinners repent, Jesus presented . . .
- II. 3 PARABLES
 - A. #1: "The parable of the lost sheep" (vs.3-7)
 1. Finding the lost sheep produced joy.
 - a. (vs.5) The man who owned the sheep rejoiced.
 - b. (vs.6) He called others to rejoice with him.
 2. Jesus revealed His lesson in vs.7 -- the repentance of one sinner produces joy in heaven.
 - B. #2: "The parable of the lost piece of silver" (vs.8-10)
 1. Finding the lost piece of silver produced joy (vs.9).
 2. Jesus revealed His lesson in vs.10 -- the repentance of one sinner produces joy in the presence of the angels of God.
 - C. #3: "The parable of the lost son" (vs.11-32)
 1. The return of the lost son produced joy (vs.11-24).
 2. Unfortunately, the older son did not rejoice (vs.25-32).
 - a. The Pharisees and scribes should have been glad when the publicans and sinners came to Jesus.
 - b. They displayed the attitude of the older son.

Conclusion:

1. The conversion of a sinner causes joy to be experienced in heaven.
2. This should cause us to:
 - a. examine ourselves to determine if our lives are right with God
 - b. do what we can to lead someone else to the Lord.