

The Parables of Jesus



Lost and
Found

The kingdom of heaven is like...

Setting 15:1-3 “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:”

- Two Groups Identified
 - tax collectors
 - sinners
- social & religious outcasts being befriended
- Standard of the day – ritual purity & avoid

Charge by the Pharisees and Scribes

- receives sinners and eats with them
 - 'receives' – word used 6 times by Luke
 - eagerly await, expectant, looking for
 - 2:25, 2:38 – eager expectance
- Jesus is loving and befriending the broken and unclean, the traitor and those deserving of societies putting them out
- 3 parables
 - lost sheep 3-7
 - lost coin 8-10

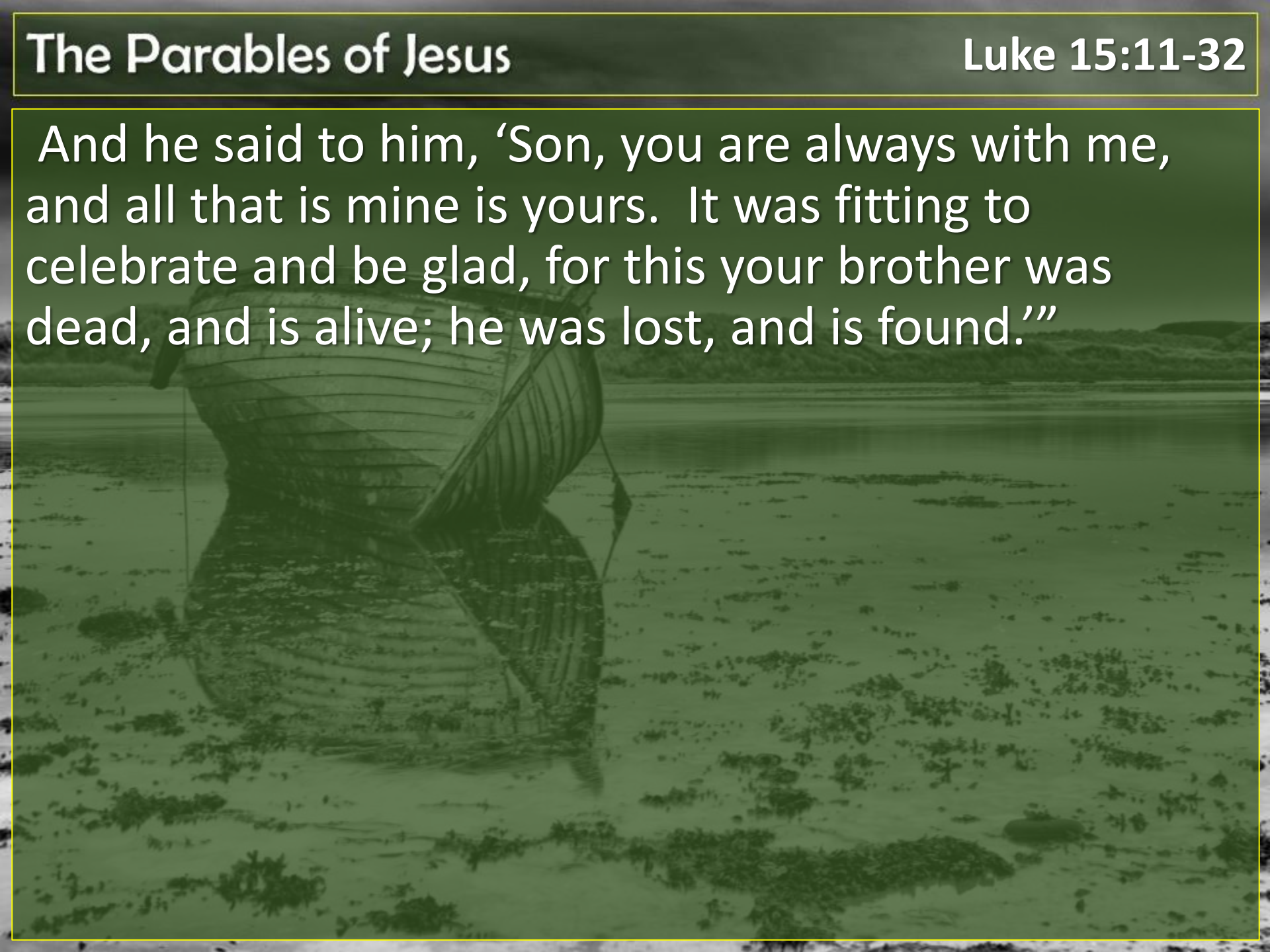
And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to [b] one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”



1. The Rebellious Son

a) desire – get what is mine, enjoy

- immense shame on family
- disappointment & pain
- liquidation costly to everyone

b) destruction – it all goes south

- loose living
- natural disaster – famine
- broken and hungry

c) discovery

- 'came to himself'
- character of the father recalled
- return without expectation

2. Religious Son

a) news arrives

- brother alive and home
- father rolling out a huge celebration

b) reaction to the news

- angry
- refusal to be a part
- contrasting with Father
 - I have.....
 - He has.....
 - Yet you
- grace extended is undeserved by him and unfair to me

3. The Father

- gives the sons freedom of will and choice

- a) watching for the son

 - long ways off

 - compassion before confession

- b) driven by love

 - abandoning cultural norms and values

 - runs, restores, pleads with

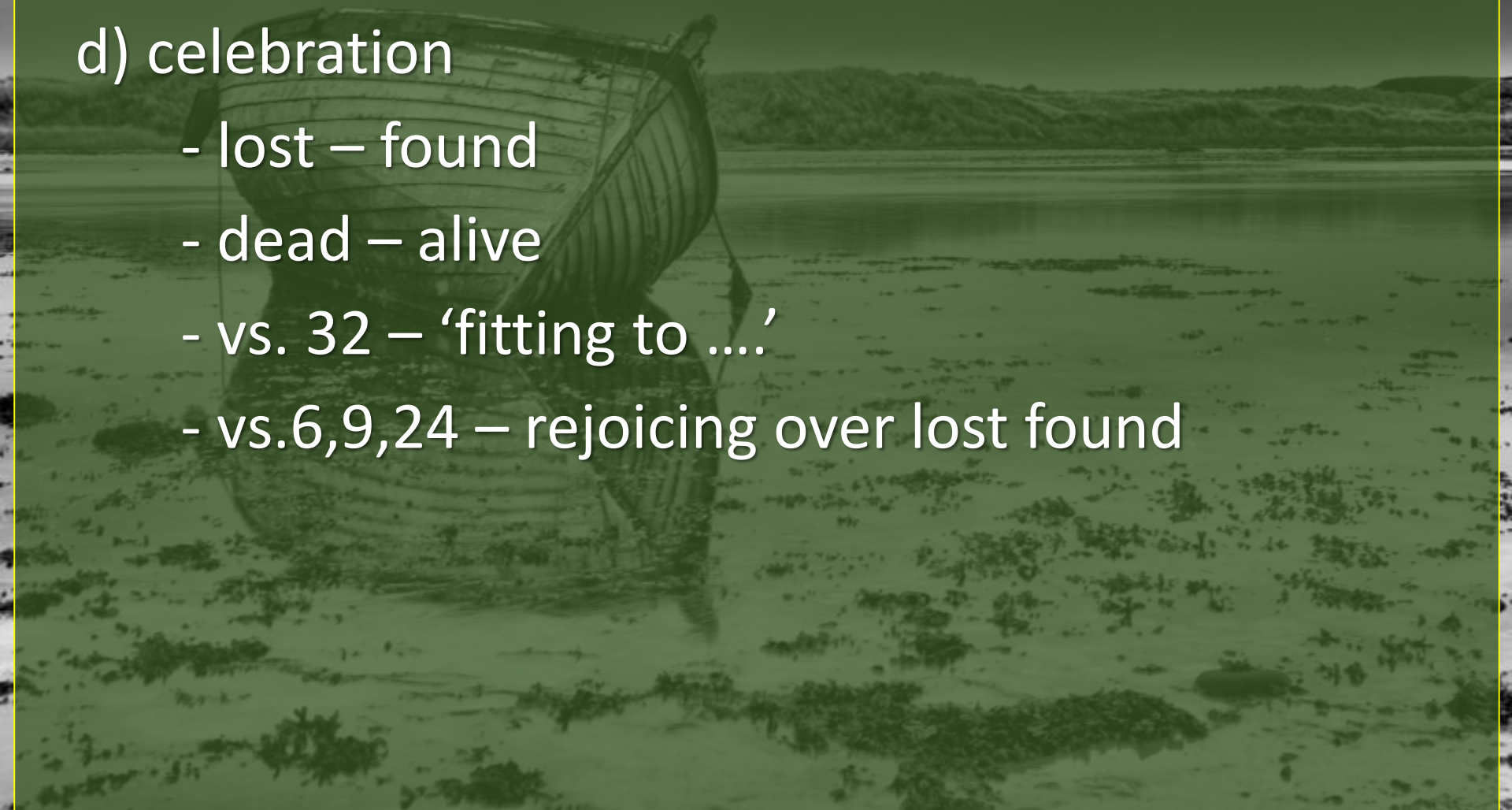
 - sets the standard for response by others

c) restoration of dignity

- robe, ring and shoes – identity

d) celebration

- lost – found
- dead – alive
- vs. 32 – ‘fitting to ...’
- vs. 6,9,24 – rejoicing over lost found



So What

1. Moved by Love

- picture of seeking and finding important
 - seeking lost sheep and finding
 - looking for lost coin and finding
 - watching for lost son and return
- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

- Matthew 9:10-13 “And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

- great hope in the love & mercy of Father

2. God Rejoices Over Sinners Saved

- vs.7 “Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

- vs.10 “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- vs.32 “It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.””

- sets the standard and invites our participation

3. Struggle with Grace

a) identify with the issue

- why are you eager to be with these....?
- why celebrate them when I
- what about recognition for

b) inheritance needs to be kept in perspective

- rewards in heaven
- store up treasure

c) invitation to join the celebration

- undeserved, unearned, freely given

4. Don't Miss the Repentance Story

- came to himself – look fully into reality
- no excuses – owning our sin and struggle
- brokenness often reveals Father's love
- experiencing the restoration
 - to the Father
 - of dignity and place
 - to family and community
- participate