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## Watch Your Tone

By Taylor Braswell January 9, 2024

### **TODAY'S READING:** Luke 15

In Luke 15 Jesus is aiming his parables at the Pharisees because they did not understand why Jesus was ministering to people they would not associate with. You see, Church, the Pharisees thought they were better than other people because of their works. In Luke 15:2 the Pharisees complain about Jesus in a *we are better than you and we can't believe you are doing this* tone. If the Pharisees understood that Jesus was God in the flesh, they would have said, "this man receives sinners and eats with them" in a *we cannot believe God would meet with any of us to reconcile us to himself* tone. They complained about Jesus to condemn him when they should have responded to Jesus by worshiping him. Tax collectors and sinners were attracted to Jesus because some of them recognized their need for a savior. The scribes and Pharisees believed they were already righteous, and they did not see their need for a savior. I once heard a pastor say, "Satan's true masterpiece is the Pharisee, not the prostitute."

Church, we must be very clear when we talk about who we are and who God is! The Pharisees did not understand the parables in Luke 15 because they did not think it was that amazing that God would pursue us. Just like the Pharisees, most people in our world today think human beings are pretty good people. People will admit some people are bad, but they believe even bad people have good in them. If you think you are a good person or that you bring anything to the table when God looks at you, you have missed it. The parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son are amazing because you and I are wretched sinners who do not deserve God, and yet God wants a relationship with us! We all need constant reminders that God is holy, and we are not. God is perfect, and we are not. Christ is Savior, and we are sinners. Praise be to God who shows us mercy and grace.

**PRAYER:** Father, You are sovereign, and You alone are worthy of my affections and worship. Thank You for saving a wretch like me. Use me to show others their need for Christ this week.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** John 1

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