

Things That Are Emphasized

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Luke 15

The first clue to look for when you come to the Scriptures is that which is emphasized. The writers have gone to great trouble to hang out a sign that says, *'Hey, this is important. Pay attention.'*

The account of the prodigal son is a beloved parable that speaks to the heart. But have you ever noticed how it seems to be emphasized in Scripture?

If you begin reading **Luke 15**, first you find the story of a lost sheep (**vv 1-7**). What percentage of the flock was lost?

What do you suppose would be the value of a single sheep in that society?

As you continue reading, you come across the story of a lost coin (**vv 8-10**). What percentage of coins was lost?

What was the value of the lost coin? (Consult other references)

Jesus moves from the tale of the lost sheep, to the story of a lost coin, to the parable of a lost son. Read **Luke 15:11-32**. The amount of space devoted to this final story immediately gives it greater emphasis. The order of the story also seems to "save the best for last." What percentage of the father's sons was lost?

What was the value of the lost son to the father?

The impact of the parable of the prodigal son is powerful, even as a "stand alone" story. But it becomes even more poignant as the result of moving from the lesser to the greater. In its context within Luke 15, do you see how Jesus placed extra emphasis on it? Why do you think He did so?