

the PRIORITY *of* COMPASSION

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS FOR THE LOST

He eats with sinners!

Luke 15

Compassion...

Goes out

Patiently persists

Joyfully embraces

Getting Started: What is something personally valuable that you lost? Describe the situation.

Digging In: What are the circumstances that led Jesus to tell this parable (vs 1-2)? What insight do the stories of the sheep and coin give you into the heart of God? How does the parable of the lost son connect to the preceding parables? Make a list of the “crimes” of the younger brother. What caused the younger brother to “come to his senses”? Make a list of actions of the father driven by his compassion. What prevented the older brother from coming to the celebration? Why does the father insist on everyone, including the older son, coming to celebrate with him?

Living It Out: Do you relate more to the experiences of the older brother or the younger brother? How? If you had been the younger son, how would you have felt when you first saw your father upon returning: (a) afraid? (b) ashamed? (c) worthless? (d) relieved? (e) thankful? (f) loved? If you had been the older son, how would you have felt when you saw your brother come home: (a) angry? (b) cheated? (c) happy? (d) jealous? (e) other? What do these three stories reveal about God’s compassion to you whether you are in the position of the younger or older brother (see also Ps 103:13-14)? How will you show compassion to someone this week?