



Ever realized that you don't know where a young child is? Panic grips you when you realize – he/she is **lost!** Luke has set up a contrast between the Pharisees/scribes and the publicans/sinners and how God views each. Trace key words in v. 6, 9, 24, 32 – lost, found, joy (merry/glad).

B.L.U.F. (Bottom Line Up Front): *God's greatest joy is to rescue the lost.*

1. Joy

- 1) Joy in Heaven v. 7
- 2) Joy by God v. 10, 24, 32

Isaiah 62:5 – “and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.”

Jeremiah 32:41 “Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.”

Zephaniah 3:17 “The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”

The joy of the Father flows from the restoration of the lost to Himself.

2. Restoration

In the far country the prodigal son learned the meaning of **misery**; but back home, he discovered the meaning of **mercy!**

Robe of Righeousness – Isaiah 61:10

Ring of Sonship – Galatians 4:4-7

Shoes of Service – Ephesians 6:15

Calf of Satisfaction – Jesus is to us bread, meat, honey, water...



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God's chief joy...rescue the lost!