

## THE PARABLE OF LUKE XV.

**I**N its three parts this parable illustrates the threefold work of God in the salvation of sinners; and also the three aspects of their state, strayed, lost, dead—the divine and human sides. The man after his strayed sheep “which is lost,” is the Saviour, “the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke xix, 10).

The woman in the second part, with her “candle,” in quest of the lost piece of silver, sets forth the Holy Spirit with the glad tidings diligently seeking the lost sinner, “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph, ii, 1), “by them which have preached the gospel . . .” “with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven” (I. Peter i, 12).

The Father's joy in the third part is in receiving his wandering son, “For this my son was dead, and is alive again, he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (Luke xv, 24).

The grace of God appears in this threefold way, and is intensified by the unworthiness of its object (see Titus ii, 11).

“The good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep” (John x, 11), and “when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. i, 3). The Holy Spirit came from heaven “to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John xvi, 8), but bearing a message of glad tidings from a glorified Saviour

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