

God's Lost & Found Department

Luke 15:1-10

Today's Question: What is lost in your life and what are you going to do about it?

Luke 15:1-10 (NKJV): The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

God's Lost & Found Department: "Good News" for "bad news" people.

1. _____ News always attracts "_____ news" people (v. 1).
 - These two groups were considered the most notorious sinners of Jesus' day.
 - _____-they were the "sell-outs." They betrayed their own Jewish people to collaborate with the occupying enemy-the Roman government who were ruling over the Jewish people.
 - _____-this group would include everyone who was not walking in the covenant community of the Jewish faith-the sexual immoral, the ceremonially unclean, and anyone who was rejected by the local synagogue for various reasons.

→In God's lost and found department, you will find that "bad news" people are attracted to Good News!

2. **God's _____ is so _____ that it will always offend the _____** (v. 2).

The legalist can't understand God's grace. Why is this?

- The legalist values principles above people.
- The legalist is so in love with truth that he/she has neglected grace.
- The legalist has forgotten that he too needs God's grace and forgiveness.
- The legalist doesn't understand that the Good News is for the "bad news" people, and we are all in the "bad news" people department.

→ God's lost and found department attracts sinners and repels the prideful legalist.

3. **God is _____ you like you were the only _____ who needs _____** (v. 4-5).

→ In God's lost and found department, lost sheep are pursued with great love as though they were the only sheep who had gone astray!

4. **Two _____ are happening after a _____ person is found** (v. 6-7, 9-10).

- Such rejoicing and so much joy that it takes two parties to express the joy that God has for the one person that has been found:
 - **The party on _____** - When a lost person accepts Christ, there should be a party among the person's family, friends, and the local church. Every believer's baptism should feel more like a party than a ceremony.
 - **The party in _____** - notice that there is "joy in heaven" (v. 6) and "joy in the presence of the angels of God."

→ **Angels are watching our salvation unfold:** I Peter 1:12 (NLT); They [the prophets] were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

→ **Saints in heaven are witnessing God work in our lives.** Hebrews 12:1-2; Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy

that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

→God's lost and found department is continually hosting "welcome home" parties every time a sinner becomes a Saint!

- Persons who need no repentance-the scribes and Pharisees did not think they were lost since they were part of the Jewish covenant people.

5. You are so _____ to God that He's willing to do _____ it takes to bring you _____ (v. 8-9).

- Jesus' second parable: A woman has 10 silver coins and loses one of them.
- Notice what she does to find this coin:

Augustine once said, "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us."

C.S. Lewis-Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not!

Christ Connection: Jesus died for you when you were still a sinner so that you could be found. Have you accepted what Jesus did for you on the Cross? Have you told others the greatest story ever told?

Today's Big Idea (A short summary): There is a party in heaven when someone the world considers "bad news" accepts the "good news" of Jesus Christ!



1. **Share the Good News** with one person this next week and come back next week ready to share this story in your Life Group on Sunday.
2. Not connected to a **Life Group**? Join one today!
3. **Baptism**-Do you need to take your next step in getting baptized? Let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: Welcome Home from Luke 15:11-32.