

## Seeking The Lost – 06/14/20

**TEXT- Luke 15:1ff** *Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.*

**INTRO** – In chapter 14 Jesus emphasized reaching the outcasts and those who would appreciate the invitation to salvation. He then discussed true discipleship and its high cost. Then the Pharisees and Scribes murmured concerning Jesus association and concern for sinners. From this context Jesus gives a series of three parables.

- The parable of the lost sheep – Innocently lost
- The parable of the lost coin – Carelessly lost
- The parable of the lost son – Willingly lost

This discourse took place between the Feast of Tabernacles and the final Passover before the crucifixion, possibly from Perea on His way to the Passover.

**Luke 15:1-3** *Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, **This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.** And he spake this parable unto them, saying,*

- The first recipient is the Pharisees – To refute their hypocrisy
- The second intended hearer is the lost - To recognize their rebellion
- The third recipient is people today – To teach us to love the lost

From the criticism that He received sinners came a series of three parables.

The Lost Sheep - Innocently lost – *I understand how God could care for those who ignorantly follow the way of the world and the flesh*

The Lost Coin - Carelessly lost – *I even understand how God could care for those who are careless*

The Lost Son - Willingly lost – *I find it difficult to understand how God could care for those knowingly choosing their own way*

That which is lost vs. 4, 6, 9, 24, 32

Rejoice – 5, 7, 9, 10, 23, 24, 32

One sinner that repenteth

**I. The Lost Sheep** – The man goes after the lost sheep

**Charles Spurgeon** – “I dare say it was a strange looking assembly, a disreputable rabble, which made the Lord Jesus its center! I am not astonished that the Pharisee, when he looked upon the congregation, sneered and said, “He collects around Him the pariahs of our community! The wretches who collect taxes for the foreigner of God’s free people, the fallen

women of the towns and such-like riffraff make up His audiences and He, instead of repelling them, receives them, welcomes them, looks upon them as a class to whom He has a peculiar relationship. He even eats with them! Did He not go into the house of Zaccheus and the house of Levi and partake of the feasts which those low people made for Him?”

**A. The sheep was an animal** – But it was the soul of man which He sought to save!

**B. The sheep wondered away which it was prone to do**

**Isa 53:6** *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**C. The shepherd sought the sheep**

The going after the sheep is a part of the parable which our Lord meant them to observe—the shepherd pursues a route which he would never think of pursuing if it were only for his own pleasure.

### COME THOU FOUNT

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood;  
How His kindness yet pursues me  
Mortal tongue can never tell,  
Clothed in flesh, till death shall loose me  
I cannot proclaim it well.

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

**Mat 18:11-12** *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?*

1. It was his deepest concern
2. It was his primary focus
3. He left the 99 to focus on the one

The sheep was a monetary concern as was the lost coin

**II. The Lost Coin** – A woman looks for the lost coin

We go from a hundred sheep to 10 coins

**A. The coin was valued**

**B. The woman had to sweep the floor**

*The coin was hidden in the dirt*

**C. The woman stopped everything else she was doing**



**D. She didn't stop looking until she found it**

**E. She reported it found to her neighbors and friends**

**There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth!**

**III. The Lost Son** – No one goes after the lost son

**Notice the effect of this young man's rebellion!**

**Rebellion always is a gradual downward trend.**

**I. SELF-WILL V.12**

**II. SELFISHNESS V.13**

**III. SEPARATION V.13**

**IV. SENSUALITY V. 13**

**V. SPIRITUAL DESTITUTION V. 14**

**VI. SELF-ABASEMENT V. 15**

**VII. STARVATION V. 16**

**VIII. REALIZATION V. 17**

**IX. RESOLUTION V. 18**

**X. REPENTANCE V. 19**

**XI. RETURN V. 20**

**XII. RECONCILIATION V. 20**

**XIII. RECLOTHING V. 22**

**XIV. REJOICING V. 23,24**

**The prodigal started out by saying "give me" v. 12**

**No man gave to him v. 16**

**The son said "make me" v. 19**

**The end shows the Pharisees how they acted!**

**Purpose of this parable is to show us how much God loves every sinner and that He is willing to receive all who repent and turn to Him.**

**Notice these attitudes toward the prodigal:**

**1. The Father - still loved and longed to see him**

**2. The friends - Used him**

**3. The farmer - Abused him**

**4. The Pharisee brother - Despised him**

**The prodigal had sins of the body**

**The elder son had sins of disposition**

**A pastor in Wales** – "A telegram was put into my hand announcing the wreck of the ship, "Royal Charter," in Moelfra Bay, on the coast of Wales, and asking me to go and break the news of her husband's death by drowning to the wife of the first officer. The ship had gone almost round the globe. She had been to Australia, and had been telegraphed as arrived at Queenstown on the previous night, so that she was anxiously expected that day in the Mersey. But during the early morning a furious gale which I might rather call a terrible hurricane--sprang up, and she was driven to destruction on that fearful shore, with a loss of over four hundred lives. As I entered the house of my parishioner, I was met by her little boy, who came dancing to me, and shouted, "Papa's coming! Papa's coming!" when I went into the parlor, I found the table spread in expectation of the arrival of him who would never cross the threshold again. I can not tell how I performed my mission; but after I had told the heavy news, the woman seemed almost stricken into marble. Her grief was too deep for tears; and I can never forget how, as she seized my hand, the first words that came gasping out were these, "So near home, and yet lost!"

**Acts 26:28** *Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

**CONCL – Three questions!**

**1. Are you a prodigal?**

**2. Do you love the lost?**

**3. Are you a hypocrite?**