

February 28, 2010

THE GOOD SON Luke 15:11-32

3 PARABLES – WHAT’S THE SAME

- LOST

Luke 15:4 – “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?”

Luke 15:8 – “Or suppose a woman has ten coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”

Luke 15:13 – “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a foreign country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

- FOUND

Luke 15:5 – “And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.

Luke 15:9 – “And when she finds it...”

Luke 15:17 – “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare and here I am starving to death? I will set out and go back to my father...’”

- CELEBRATE

Luke 15:6 – “Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”

Luke 15:9 – “She calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.

Luke 15:23 – “Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.”

3RD PARABLE UNIQUE – NO SEARCH

Luke 15:20 – “So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

MAJOR DIFFERENCE

- COMING TO ONE’S SENSES
- SEARCH TO RESCUE ANOTHER

RESPONSIBILITY OF RESCUE LAY ON THE OTHER BROTHER

- CAIN AND ABLE
- ABRAHAM AND LOT
- JONAH AND NINEVEH

YOUR OLDER BROTHER

Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Philippians 2:6-8

WHAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCES IN YOUR LIFE TEMPT YOU TO TRUST YOUR GOODNESS RATHER THAN GOD’S GRACE?

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD WORK ON YOUR “LOSTNESS?”

GOING DEEPER

Luke 15:1-32

1. What is the noblest act you have ever done, and how was it received?
2. Look at the following Biblical examples in terms of who does or does not feel responsible for “seeking and saving” those who were lost. What seems to be God’s conviction about human responsibility?
 - Genesis 4:1-10 – Cain and Abel
 - Genesis 14:10-16 – Abraham and Lot
 - Jonah 1:1-3, 4:9-11 – Jonah and Nineveh
3. From the previous examples, what should the audience listening to Jesus’ parables have expected from the older son, if this would have been a story with a good ending?
4. Why do you believe Jesus told this parable of the prodigal son describing the older son the way he did?
5. If you were to summarize what is right with the older son, what would you say? What is wrong with this same son?
6. Where have you seen attitudes and expressions coming out of you that reflect the lostness of the older son? How does God speak to you so you realize you may “saved” but still appear “lost?”
7. Who is a person like the lost older son you might spend time with to help him in the ways God is helping you?