

LUKE 15:1-32

REVIEW...

- **LUKE 14:25-35 - THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP...**
 - A VERY large crowd followed Jesus...
 - Having taught the crowds that all are sinners - everyone needs to repent and be saved...
 - And having taught them that the way is narrow - there is only one way to heaven...
 - And teaching them that all are invited to come - anyone can be saved...
 - Jesus then taught them the cost of following Him - being His disciple...
 - 1st - You must hate your family - meaning putting your Jesus before your family...
 - 2nd - You must take up your cross - make Jesus not just savior / but Lord...
 - 3rd - Count the cost - Love Jesus more than anything else...
 - When you build a house - make sure you are ready to finish what you start...
 - When you go to war - make sure you have a plan to overcome your enemy...
 - 4th - Be salt - be an example to the world around us...
 - Preserving a rotting world / healing the wounded / create a thirst for the water of life...
 - But if we are like the world - then we are no longer salt for Christ!

LOST AND FOUND...

- **EATING WITH SINNERS... VS. 1-2**
 - The Pharisees and Scribes came to Jesus and accused Him of - 'eating with sinners'...
 - They were not complaining about a one-time occurrence - this was Jesus routine...
 - They had been accusing Him of this from the beginning - **Mark 2:16**
 - Apparently Jesus preferred to eat with sinners / rather than the religious leaders...
 - This didn't go over well with the Pharisees & Scribes - they were greatly offended...
 - Jesus explained His purpose by giving the leaders 3 parables...
- **1ST - THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP - GOD IS LOOKING FOR THE LOST... VS. 3-7**
 - If a Man had 100 sheep and one of them wandered off - got lost...
 - Suppose you had a child that had a tendency to wander off...
 - You warned him over and over to stay close - but one day he turned up missing...
 - Would you miss him - would you go after him - or figure I still have the others...
 - Our Heavenly Father loves us very much - and He warns us to stay close to Him...
 - Our problem is we like to sin - and sin separates us from God...
 - It's easy for us to get distracted - to lose our focus on Jesus...
 - We see something pretty in the world and wander off after it...
 - We end up wandering off in sin and get lost and don't know how to get back to God...
 - The Man would leave the 99 - to go and find the lost one - until He found it...
 - That is why Jesus came - he came to seek and save us - from sin...
 - He came to find His children who were lost - and He Promises He will find us...

- If we wander off – He is always right behind us looking to bring us back!
- o And when He has finds it - He will lay it on His shoulders...
 - The practice of shepherds was to break the legs of sheep that wandered...
 - They would then take the sheep and carry them till the leg healed...
 - The purpose was to teach the sheep to completely depend on the Shepherd!
 - When we choose to get caught up in sin – there are consequences - **Galatians 6:7**
 - We may end up with a ‘broken leg’ – but it’s then Jesus carries us...
 - So that we learn always to trust in Him – always staying close by His side!
- o When the Shepherd comes home - there is a celebration...
 - He calls together His friends and neighbors - ‘I have found my lost sheep!’
 - In the same way - there is more joy in heaven when one sinner repents...
 - Then over the ninety-nine who ‘don’t think’ need to repent...
 - The religious leaders thought they had no need to repent - they were not ‘lost’...
 - But they could not have been more wrong - **Romans 3:23** – we are all sinners!
 - They needed saving as much as the sinners they accused Jesus of eating with...
 - We are all sinners - and we were all lost sheep...
 - **Isaiah 53:6** - “All of us, like sheep, have strayed away...”
 - Perhaps you are that 100th sheep – maybe you are lost in sin this morning...
 - Jesus is always right there looking for you – seeking out His lost lamb...
 - The moment you turn back to Jesus – He is always ready to receive you again...
 - No matter how many times we make mistakes – even the same mistake!
- **2ND - PARABLE OF THE 10 COINS - GOD’S JOY OVER A SINNERS REPENTANCE... vs. 8-10**
 - o If a woman had 10 silver coins - each worth about 5,000P - and she lost one...
 - Would she forget about it - just be ‘thankful’ for the 9 coins she still had left - NO!
 - She would light a lamp to search everywhere for that one lost coin...
 - She would sweep her whole house from top to bottom until she found it!
 - Forget about 5,000P - we would spend a day to hunt down 100P!
 - And when she found it - she would call her friends and neighbors to celebrate...
 - o The celebration of the Angels...
 - When one sinner repents - every time - the Angels in heaven celebrate!
 - God is never content with those who are saved - He wants everyone in heaven!
 - With the same passion we would ‘hunt’ for misplaced money...
 - God is searched this world from top to bottom to find us - His greatest treasure...
 - Each one of us is precious in His sight - each one a reason to celebrate when found!
- **3RD - PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON - WE ARE CALLED TO REJOICE WITH GOD... vs. 11-24**
 - o A certain man had two sons - the younger asked his father for his inheritance... vs. 11-12
 - Jewish law allotted $\frac{1}{3}$ of the inheritance to the younger son - **Deuteronomy 21:17**
 - The father was under no obligation to give the inheritance before his death...
 - Because He loved his son - he honored his request - giving both sons their inheritance...
 - o Just a couple of days later - the younger son took all he had and left... vs. 13

- He burned all his bridges - he had no intent of ever coming back again...
- He went to a far away county - and wasted everything his father had given to him...
- He literally threw his money away on riotous living - women / drinking / parties...
- **We have all received an inheritance from the Lord - special abilities/gifts from God...**
- **Perhaps we are good with our hands / or we are good at business...**
- **But rather than using our gifts to glorify God - we run from God into the world...**
- **We use our gifts for selfish reasons – for our own personal gain...**
- **We run after pleasure in life - ignoring the purpose God has for us...**
- o After he had spent all his money - a severe famine hit the land... vs. 14-16
 - He fell behind in all his bills - lost all his 'friends' - could not even afford food to eat...
 - He bound (*glued*) himself to a citizen of that country - got a job feeding pigs...
 - He LONGED to eat the scraps that he fed the pigs - but no one would give him anything!
 - **For sure sin is enjoyable – if it were not there would be no temptation to sin...**
 - **But it is enjoyable only for a short time - Hebrews 11:25...**
 - **No matter how we choose to sin – in the end there are consequences – Galatians 6:7**
 - **It may be fun to have boyfriends/girlfriends - till an unexpected baby comes along...**
 - **It may be fun to hang out at the cockfights - till we loose all our money...**
 - **It may be fun to drink with the guys - till we wake up in prison...**
 - **John 8:34 - “I say unto you he that commits sin is the slave of sin...”**
 - **In the end we end up in bondage to sin - morally and spiritually bankrupt!**
- o When he came to himself... vs. 17-19
 - He thought to himself - how many of my father’s servants have food to spare...
 - Those who used to serve him were full / while he starved...
 - I will go to my father and say - ‘I have sinned against heaven and before you...’
 - **When we sin - first and foremost - we sin against God...**
 - **Psalm 51:4 - “Against you and you alone have I sinned [Lord]...”**
 - **The first step to being found by God - is to realize you are lost...**
 - **Turn back to God - whom you rebelled against - and repent of your sin!**
 - I am not longer worthy to be called you son - make me your servant...
 - The man had literally been ‘out of his mind’ - he had been playing the fool...
 - But in his poverty - he came to his senses - he realized his mistake...
 - **It takes a lot of humility to come to Jesus for help...**
 - **It means being honest with ourselves– our inability to get ourselves out of trouble...**
 - **When we have humility we access the limitless riches of God’s grace!**
 - **James 4:6 – “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”**
- o The Father ran... vs. 20
 - The son was still a great way off the Father saw him - He was looking for His ‘lost son’...
 - The Father saw him and had compassion - and ran to embrace His son...
 - **The only time in the whole Bible you ever see God running...**
 - **Is when one of His sons/daughters who was lost - comes home again!**
- o My son was dead - and is alive again... vs. 21-24
 - The son made his confession before the Father - he repented - ‘I have sinned...’
 - The suggestion is that the Father interrupted his son - before he could even finish...

- The Father put the best robe on his son - ring put on his hand - sandals on his feet...
- Slaved were barefooted - he was given shoes to prove he was a son!
- He commanded the fatted calf be killed - and a feast prepared...
- It is possible the father had been preparing the calf for his very day!
- His son was dead and lost - and now he was alive again and found...
 - God never tell us 'I told you so' - when we repent of sin - we only find love...
 - God will never turn away a repentant sinner - God cannot resist a humbled heart!
 - Like a Father who longs for a wayward son - God runs to us when we come home!
- **THE OLDER SON - THE KEY TO THE PARABLE... VS. 25-32**
 - o When the Older son came in from the fields - he heard the music/dancing/celebration...
 - This was no small party - this was a HUGE fiesta - everyone was celebrating...
 - He kept asking the servants 'what's happening' - apparently hard to get their attention
 - They told him his brother had come home 'safe and sound'...
 - Every was thrilled - with one exception - the brother...
 - o The older brother went into a rage...
 - He refused to go into the house - to be a part of the celebration...
 - So his Father came out to encourage (*Imperfect*) His oldest son...
 - The oldest argued - he had been faithful to serve the Father for many years...
 - He had never disobeyed even one command - not even once!
 - Yet the Father had never given him a party - a young goat to share with his friends...
 - But when 'His son' - the oldest was not even willing to call him a brother...
 - Who wasted their Father's money on harlots - came home - he got the fatted calf!
 - The older son - was the religious leaders...
 - They thought they alone deserved the best from God - they had been 'faithful'...
 - They were mad at Jesus because He celebrated when 'sinners' came home...
 - They did not get invited to Jesus' dinner parties - so they refused to join in...
 - I have met many 'Christians' who choose to stay as far as they can from sinners...
 - To them church should be a 'social gathering' for Godly people just like them...
 - But the church is not for social club for saints - it is a hospital for sinners...
 - We cannot be afraid to go and get our hand dirty - sinners need our help!
 - Not that we join in with them - we need to be careful not to fall back into the world...
 - But we reach out to them - showing them the Love of Jesus!
 - o We had to celebrate this happy day...
 - The older son would one day receive all the father had...
 - But the younger son had been a 'lost sheep' - and he was found alive again!
 - **Luke 19:10** - "The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost..."
 - Jesus did not come for the righteous - He came to find and save the sinners...
 - Jesus is willing to 'sit with them' - there is always room in church or one more sinner!
 - No one is beyond God's reach - no one is too much of a sinner - all are just lost sheep...
 - The Angels celebrate in heaven celebrate when each one is found!
 - The murderer / the thief / the liar / drunk - that guy who we REALLY don't like...
 - We must learn to rejoice long with Jesus when a sinner gets saved...