

“Parable of the Lost Coin”

Introduction – Luke 15:8-10

There are some very important truths from this short parable to take to heart.

I. GOD’S CARE FOR EVERYONE

Luke 15:8 (NIV)

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

Many times, preachers can make it sound like God wants to send people to hell. Scripture is very clear that God does not want anyone to be lost! He wants everyone – the whosoever will!

Listen to these passages expressing God’s heart! The prophet Ezekiel brings across in the midst of warning people of God’s judgment what God’s desire is:

Ezekiel 18:23 (NIV)

23 DO I TAKE ANY PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED? DECLARES THE SOVEREIGN LORD. RATHER, AM I NOT PLEASED WHEN THEY TURN FROM THEIR WAYS AND LIVE?

Ezekiel 18:30-32 (NIV)

30 “THEREFORE, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL, I WILL JUDGE YOU, EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, DECLARES THE SOVEREIGN LORD. REPENT! TURN AWAY FROM ALL YOUR OFFENSES; THEN SIN WILL NOT BE YOUR DOWNFALL. 31 RID YOURSELVES OF ALL THE OFFENSES YOU HAVE COMMITTED, AND GET A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT. WHY WILL YOU DIE, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL? 32 FOR I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF

ANYONE, DECLARES THE SOVEREIGN LORD. REPENT AND LIVE!

So, we see God's heart expressed in the Old Testament where many see God just as angry and judging. Now, we turn to the New Testament where the apostle Peter brings across God's heart and desire:

II Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **9 THE LORD IS NOT SLOW IN KEEPING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOWNESS. HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE.**

We need to know that God desires all people to come to repentance – to recognize what sin has done to us and we need to turn from it and ask God's forgiveness who then gives us a new heart and a new spirit!

II. GOD'S SEARCH FOR THE LOST

In verse 8 we see brought across lighting the lamp, sweeping the house and searching for the lost coin!

This is another awesome truth for us to take to heart!

Listen to these passages on God's love and search for people who are lost:

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

God's promise to Ezekiel to give to the children of Israel:

Ezekiel 34:11-12 (NIV)

11 “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. **12** As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

Jesus in His ministry clearly stated:

Luke 19:10 (NIV)

10 FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE WHAT WAS LOST.”

As Jesus just stated prior to this parable in the parable of the Lost Sheep:

Luke 15:3-7 (NIV)

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: **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? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ **7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

So, it is very clear God is pursuing us! He wants everyone to come to Him in repentance to eternal life in Jesus!

III. REJOICING IN HEAVEN WHEN A SINNER REPENTS

Luke 15:9-10 (NIV)

9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ **10** In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

As we look here we have two verses in these two parables in Luke 15 that say:

Luke 15:7 (NIV)

7 I TELL YOU THAT IN THE SAME WAY THERE WILL BE MORE REJOICING IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER WHO REPENTS THAN OVER NINETY-NINE RIGHTEOUS PERSONS WHO DO NOT NEED TO REPENT.

Luke 15:10 (NIV)

10 IN THE SAME WAY, I TELL YOU, THERE IS REJOICING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OF GOD OVER ONE SINNER WHO REPENTS.”

Listen to the call of Peter at the end of his messages in Acts:

Acts 2:36-39 (NIV)

36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” **37** When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 3:17-21 (NIV)

17 “Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. **18** But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. **19** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, **20** and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. **21** He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

So, we must never look at repentance as a negative thing! It is the absolutely necessary heart response to the good news about Jesus! As we repent we have awesome promises of forgiveness and cleansing!

Listen to these amazing promises:

Psalm 32:1-5 (NIV)

1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **2** Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. **3** When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah **5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”— and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Psalm 51:1-12 (NIV)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. **4** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. **5** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. **6** Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. **7** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. **8** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. **9** Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. **10** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalm 103:8-14 (NIV)

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. **9** He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. **13** As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; **14** for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

I John 1:5-9 (NIV)

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

There are so many more! Just know God is seeking you and me! He longs for us to reach out and be forgiven and restored into right relationship with God!

Conclusion

Altar call.