



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 77 “How to View the Lost” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 15:1-10 ESV

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins,^[a] if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Intro: (My Lost Wedding Ring)

In Luke 15 our Lord tells three stories, but really they're just one story. It's the story of heaven's reaction **when the lost are found**. The first story is the story about a lost sheep. The second story is about a lost coin. And the third story is about a lost son. All three follow the same pattern: lost, sought, found, restored, and celebrated. - MacArthur

This story is the middle of Jesus' Judean ministry, dead center, possibly showing you what Luke considered as the pivotal point in Jesus' ministry. It is summed up a little later in Luke 19.



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Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

It is pointing out **what God was concerned with the most**. This is also a story where God is shown to be rejoicing over that which He came to do! The KoG even though it has a cost to get in, a cost of suffering for our savior and the cost of our personal freedom, it comes with some big promises:

Romans 14:17 ESV

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness** and **peace** and JOY in the Holy Spirit.

Joy ‘IS’ a part of God’s Kingdom and **it is important as God’s people to learn where it comes from so we as Kingdom people can produce it!** For if we don’t then we have shown we are not a part of it....

This is definitely a big deal in the life of Jesus! We don’t see Him laugh much in the Bible, we are told He was a man **acquainted with sorrow (Is. 53:3)**. His job was necessary and beautiful but terribly painful for Him. But in our passage today we see what makes Him happy, that which was a driving factor in His life, to ensure He completed it. *You will do a lot of things in your life but if joy is not at the root of the thing you do, you most likely will fail.*

Joy is a part of God’s Kingdom in case you thought differently. That’s what makes Christianity so different than every other religion in the world. Suffering, denial, surrendering of one’s will - **all of it produces joy!** Joy comes from discovering that the things we have sought for so long in our lives to bring happiness were failing but real joy has been discovered in accepting God’s plan for our lives.

In our story today, people of the world, the text describes them as tax collectors and sinners, people that have tried everything else to be happy. They were coming by the droves to see Jesus because they had figured out this much, whatever Jesus had to offer it was so much better than what they had.



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15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Jesus was showing them by His actions of ‘receiving/including them’ what was making Him joyful, **the very fact that they came to Him to hear about God’s Kingdom. They were the people that He had come to see!** The pharisees were supposed to show them the Kingdom but they had failed. They failed because they wanted nothing to do with them and because they advertised the KoG as behavior modification for your life, a harsh diet just to get by on. BUT Jesus has been showing them it’s an all you can eat buffet of good news for all men! **How we would be so blessed if we just realized the King of the Universe is happy to spend time with us!** Wouldn’t that change your disposition on life?!

Objective: Today my desire is to help us really see what Jesus rejoices over, what drives Him, so we as disciples can seek to be like Him. To know and understand what makes Jesus happy should make His people happy!

1. God Rejoices in Finding those who are LOST.

⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

The parable is told in response to what the Pharisees were grumbling about. Jesus’ reasoning for being on the earth is to come and search for the lost that the Pharisees and scribes would have nothing to do with. A Pharisee wouldn’t even eat under the same roof with these people, they considered them untouchable. The **shepherd was the worst of all.** It was considered the lowest of jobs where sometimes the only ones you could find for the job was someone with a criminal history or the sickly. Shepherds couldn’t make it in town to the synagogue for worship, they always broke the sabbath because of their uncleanness, and because of their responsibilities traveling to the temple was almost a never occurrence.



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Jesus **insults the Pharisees** by asking the lowest of the low what they thought. Translation – “Who would be foolish enough not to go looking?” The shepherd would be like of course you go looking! That is your responsibility, that little sheep is worth money, sheep are not that bright they can’t find their way home! All the reasons why the Pharisees should have gone after the lost, the **lost** have value in God’s eyes, it was their responsibility, and the **lost** need guidance to find their way home!

Jesus is like you are right! Because the shepherd we are told rejoices when he finds that lost sheep, picks up a heavy animal, and carries them home. No more walking, no more misplacement, you are on my shoulders all the way back to the fold! Jesus is the good shepherd He came not to just to prove He’s real, but in a real way Jesus is involved in our Salvation.

John 10:14-15

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

He picks up the weary, He calms the despondent, He carries the burden of our heavy lives and He does it REJOICING! He is the Good Shepherd! **Now let’s look at this second example of what causes Jesus to rejoice.**

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?”

Now Jesus has a tale for the ladies of the group. Those the pharisees considered 2nd class citizens, that were disposable, those that the Pharisees were ok making up reasons for divorce if you didn’t want your wife anymore. So again, Jesus looks around the Pharisees to get the opinion of the overlooked to show His view of them.

That coin was one of ten and these silver coins most likely were a Greek *Drachmas*, part of the woman’s dowry that would be worn around her head. The coin is worth about a day’s pay but represented more, it represented her worth among that town. The woman stops everything in one day, refuses to light the



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lamp for the day to begin, no food prep work, no mending, nothing UNTIL that coin is found.

Both cases it shows the hard work of finding the lost because of the great joy that is associated with it. Jesus is willing to go through all the pain of looking because of the joy associated with finding that which is lost! To bring a lost one home, to add to the Kingdom, to ensure not one person His father gave Him was lost! The Pharisees blew it, because they had lost their respect for people, **THEIR VALUE, but Jesus keeps on point because He understands the value of people created in the image of God, especially those that belong to His flock AND He wants to **share that joy!****

2. God likes to Rejoice with those in the Kingdom.

⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘**Rejoice with me**, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

And again, in the story of the Coin look at the desire to include people in the rejoicing!

⁹And when she has found it, she **calls together her friends and neighbors**, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Jesus in the story is showing us, especially the Pharisees in that setting, what should the attitude be towards recovering the Lost! In both cases you see that the **rejoicing broke out not over elation of not having lost the majority but the reclaiming of the one.** The Pharisees had come to the belief that they were favored in their lives over others because of how they lived their lives. Jesus had already showed them the hypocrisy of that.



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You also don't see in the story that the majority, or those that weren't lost, **they aren't mistreated or given away.** They still have value, but the value comes from how the owner views them not in their view of themselves. That is why God rejoices over having found the lost one, the wayward, those that were lost due to carelessness. He never neglects the other 90%. As a matter of fact, the 'one' is sought to bring a completion to the 90%, to bring it a greater glory as a whole bunch. If you were missing 10% to a puzzle would you still desire to display that for all to see? **In God's Kingdom you are to rejoice about the finding, the returning, the reuniting of the one to the few when it happens, it is to be a driver for you and me.** Jesus wants you to know that Joy for it is a part of the KoG and we should be displaying it, just like Jesus!

Here is the question we have to ask ourselves today. **Do we spend our time, using our energies, our freedoms, our influence, and our days rejoicing over that which Jesus rejoices over, the Lost when they are brought home?** If your answer is 'no' I ask you to pay close attention here for the last point.

3. God invites us to be a part of the process.

Matthew 9:35-37 ESV

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore **pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”**

We, the church, are the laborers that have been prayed for, we are the answer that the Father gave to Jesus for the hope of the Lost, we are the ones that Jesus wants to share the joy of the KoG with. **This is not a choice we have but it is an offer to fulfill our destiny.**



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Now the thing we have to address is why do we lack the desire to do so? I am not saying that we generally don't like people but for the most part the church in America is apathetic to those who are lost, meaning, they don't care to be happy. I don't know about you, but I desire to know this joy that Jesus has promised!

I believe family that the church has forgotten what people really are because the **world teaches us that human life is not Valuable**. We see 100s of 1,000s of babies murdered every year and we are quiet. We see people in our country harassed, jailed and murdered by those sworn to protect and we turn the channel instead of learning their story. We see the church in China harassed and sent to prison camps for reconditioning. We have forgotten what man's true value is to God and its' time to hear it again and realize it and repent for what was lost: **valuing and loving people.**

Genesis 1:26 ESV

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

God made people, the saved and the lost, in His likeness, **the *Imago Dei***. It means we are special, out of all creation we are eternal, and because of it we were given the task to rule the cosmos. This means every time we choose not to care about a person, we hate another human being, we project our pain on someone else and we wish harm on them, we project that on God. Listen to how C.S. Lewis describes it in his work *The Weight of Glory*.

C.S. Lewis said it best when he wrote in *The Weight of Glory*:

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have,



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from the outset, taken each other seriously—no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.

I just want to say that I caught myself this week, **disappointed at how long it took me to watch the full video of George Floyd (Ahmaud Arbery)**. When I watched it, I felt ashamed, not because I am white, but because here was another human being created in the image of God, whose life was treated as if it meant nothing, and that I choose not to pay attention to it for a couple of days, I mean what’s wrong with me!?! This person, if he was lost, then he has lost the chance ever to know the savior, his life was taken away by senseless violence, he should be mourned and we as God’s laborers should work at changing the situation that lead to that. **But we have to ask that question do I love my neighbor for they are created in the image of God?**

How do we make sense of this, how do we practice loving our neighbor, and especially how do I practice rejoicing in finding the Lost as Jesus did?

First, we Lament, we are saddened over the fallen creation, we grieve how we have become jaded, all of which helps us to sympathize and empathize with those that are hurting.

We pray and ask God to give us a heart for the Lost and for a heart that sees people as He sees them.

Then, we seek to learn more about the plight of the Lost, what they are having a hard time with, where they are struggling, and who are they afraid of.

We speak truth in our areas of influence, where people listen to us, and that may not be FB but more likely it is where you work, it is the children you teach, it is in your social groups where you work, eat, and play.

My family we have been invited by our King to come and experience joy like He does when the Lost come home. Let’s not just act like we care but let’s work at caring for those far from Him. Let’s remember we were created in the image of



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God ourselves, to reflect His glory on a sick and dying world and let’s learn to care for our fellow man again...

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that created us in His image and that has given us as co-laborers to His Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that rejoices over finding the Lost and invites us to rejoice in His victory!

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that helps us to see that people have an infinite value and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.