

Lost & Found - Parables of Jesus

07.04.2013 AM

You Must be Lost to be Found

Open with invitation of the Spirit (prayer/music)

Big Idea: You must realise you are lost in order to be found

Background info:

Part of Jesus' purpose was to proclaim both the coming and the nature of the Kingdom of God. The parables of the lost & found were completely counter-cultural to the people of the time. The Judaism religion thought that in order to be in right standing with their God they must offer sacrifices. In Judaism, if one was to sin (that is do the wrong thing by God) then they must offer a sacrifice to cancel out the sin. The Pharisee's (a very religious group of Jews) thought that they were in right standing with God because of their sacrifices and good works. Jesus message of the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Coin & Son, that they were in fact lost was earth-shattering for these people.

Explore:

Luke 15:4-7 ESV

"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? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And 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.' Just 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.

Q: Who are the sheep? What does it mean to be lost?

**The Greek word for lost apollumi also means perishing eternally. It should convey an idea of helplessly lost to the point of dying and there is an obvious connection to the idea of hell. To perish eternally is to go to hell.*

Matthew 18:23-24 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Q: How much would ten thousand talents be today? What is the debt, who is the King and who are the servants? What is Jesus trying to explain here?

**10,000 talents is the equivalent of 60 million working days wages or in today's figures somewhere between 9 Billion & 1 Trillion dollars due to inflation. The point of this amount of money is that it is impossible to pay back our debt to God because of sin (we can't work it off, we can't earn it off).*

Connect Group Bible Study

Bringing God & People Together



Luke 18:10-13 (ESV)

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.

Q: What was the difference that Jesus was highlighting between these two men?

**The Tax Collector realised that he was lost and needed to be rescued. The Pharisee did not. In the eyes of the Pharisee, he had earned back through his fasting and his tithes, he thought that he had paid God back.*

Apply:

Q: How were you lost? What does it mean to you to be lost?

Q: Do we sometimes think we can earn God's love?

All about Jesus:

Luke 19:10 - For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 20:28 - the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Q: How did God feel about the lost? What was Jesus main purpose for coming to earth? What does it mean that He gave His life as a ransom?

Further challenge (optional extras for the group):

As a further challenge, consider the example set for us by Jesus. He came to seek the lost? Matthew 28 reveals that we are also given this mission. Discuss and pray about ways that you could seek the lost also. Identify the people that you are seeking and ways that you could effectively share the good news of Jesus rescue with them.

Prayer Points:

*** School Scripture (Primary & High)**

Praise Points:

*** 120 people going to Presence Conf.**

Up & Coming Events @ C3 Thirroul: Let us all be praying for, inviting & bringing people

* Apr 19, 2013 - Guest Speaker Jamie Malcolm (Encounter Service) 10:00 am

* Apr 21, 2013 - Young Adults Service (PM) 6:00 pm
