

Lost and Found Series, Pt. 1

Lost in Plain Sight

Luke 15:1-7

Pastor Tim Brisson

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness 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 and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ 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. Luke 15:1–7 (NRSVue)

How Jesus viewed the Lost

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36, NRSVue)

How the Pharisees viewed the Lost

“And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.’” (Matthew 9:10–13, NRSVue)

“the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” (Matthew 11:19, NRSVue)

“Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him”. In view of today’s sermon, does this image mean more to you now? Can you see yourself in this crowd? Why?

Repentance = a change of mind, as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done

Repenting involves fear

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.**” (John 3:16–21, NRSVue)*

Call to action

DO THE DIRTY WORK OF THE SHEPHERD!

- 1) Do you need to repent? Be in prayer and do a heart check first.**
 - 2) Do you someone who is lost in plain sight? Someone who is lost in the crowd, going about life’s business but needing a shepherd?**
 - 3) Make a plan to reach out to this person, and carry though with it this week.**
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