



SERMON NOTES

Week 5 March 17, 2024

"Parables of the Lost Things"

Luke 1:1–2; 15:1–2, 4, 7–8, 12, 18–20, 22, 24, 29–30, 32



I. Introduction / Review

- A. When a view about anything becomes an excuse to be disrespectful or dismissive toward another person, you may be right, but you are not _____ according to Jesus.
- B. The question to ask if you are deciding whether to take Christianity seriously or not is: Is Matthew, Mark, Luke or John a _____ account of actual events?
- C. Luke is not writing the _____; he is simply documenting an account of the life of Jesus.

II. Righteous and Unrighteous

- A. Many first century people thought the 'sinners and tax collectors' were hopelessly _____ from God.
- B. You have these two groups in Jesus' audience, both groups (self-righteous and the unrighteous) are confused about what _____ is like.

III. Finding Lost Things (Parable of the Lost Sheep and Coin)

- A. In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus is saying when you lose something of value you are laser-focused not on what's found, but on what is _____.
- B. God views unrighteous people as something _____ that got separated from its owner.
- C. Jesus does the unthinkable: he associates the hero of the parable, a _____, with God.

IV. The Prodigal Son

- A. Why would a father divide everything he'd spent his life accumulating between his two sons? Because his son was lost to him, and he wanted him _____.
- B. According to Jesus, we've all been the _____ son, because at some season of our lives, we've all been lost to God.
- C. According to Jesus, God does not see good and bad people, he sees lost-to-God people and _____-by-God people.
- D. We will need to view people not as 'good and bad' but 'lost and found' so we'll no longer size people up and _____ them off.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *March 18-23, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

It becomes very easy for religious people to look down at people who are not like them. But Jesus had a heart for non-religious people. Being right doesn't give us the right to be self-righteous. This is what Jesus teaches us in the parables of the lost things.

Monday: Luke 14:25 – 15:32

The Pharisees thought “bad people” don’t change. Jesus saw people much more as “lost” (like the sheep, coin or boy), and said God tirelessly seeks hearts gone off course. When have you lost your way spiritually and needed finding? Jesus said God rejoiced at every return. What has most helped you see God as more eager to welcome you home than to punish you for getting lost?

Tuesday: Luke 17:1-19

On his way to Jerusalem, somewhere near the border between Galilee and Samaria, Jesus met the ten outcasts with skin diseases. Jesus healed and delivered them all, yet only one of those, a “bad” Samaritan, praised God. What experiences or inner obstacles make it harder for you to feel gratitude? Are there things you have forgotten or neglected to thank God for?

Wednesday: Luke 17:20 – 18:8

In verses 18:1-8 Jesus used a “how much more” question, as rabbis often did. In effect he asked, “If even an unjust judge will do justice if pressed, how much more can we trust God to do justice?” But, he asked, will I find faithfulness on earth? Can you keep faithfully trusting God to do justice even when there seems to be letdowns or delays? How do you answer Jesus' question about faith?

Thursday: Luke 18:9-34

When the young ruler whose riches “owned” him turned away, Jesus said it was very hard for the wealthy to enter God’s kingdom. Yet most people in Jesus' day equated wealth with God’s favor, so they asked, “Then who can be saved?” Do you trust that - whether you are a “somebody” or a “nobody” - your salvation is “possible for God”? How does that shape the way you live each day?

Friday: Luke 19:11-28

Jesus' hearers would have seen God as the king in Jesus' story and Israel as the servants. God gave Israel a task: to show God’s glory and love to all nations (Genesis 12:1-3). How has God gifted you? In what ways do those gifts imply the task(s) God calls you to? Do you ever feel like keeping your gifts safely in a “scarf,” rather than actively using them for God’s work in the world?

MOVING FORWARD

In the parables of the lost things, Jesus reminds us that when we lose something of value we are laser-focused not on what’s found, but on what’s lost. And he reveals to us that God views unrighteous people as something valuable that got separated from God. According to Jesus, God does not see “good” and “bad” people, he sees “lost to God” people and “found by God” people. If we can do the same, we will no longer be self-righteous and write people off.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) righteous, B) reliable, C) Bible. IIA) separated, B) God. IIIA) lost, B) valuable, C) woman. IVA) back, B) prodigal, C) found, D) write.