

CONNECTED TO GOD

Mercy – Part 5

“Jesus saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5 (NLT/CEV)

Jesus: “I have come to seek and to save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10 (NLT)

Jesus told 3 stories: “The Lost Sheep” (Luke 15:1-7), “The Lost Coin” (Luke 15:8-10), “The Lost Son” (Luke 15:11-31)

KEY OBSERVATION: ‘Lostness’ implies VALUE

WHAT DO I LOSE WHEN I’M SPIRITUALLY “LOST”?

1. DIRECTION

“All of us have strayed away just like lost sheep. We’ve all left God’s path to follow our own ways.” Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

2. God’s PROTECTION

“...the people set out like sheep and become scattered because they have no shepherd...” Zechariah 10:2 (NET)

3. POTENTIAL

“No one has ever seen or heard or even imagined the wonderful things God has prepared and arranged for those who love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9 (MSG)

4. HAPPINESS

“The younger son wasted all he’d been given and eventually he became miserable and lonely.” Luke 15:14 (Paraphrase)

5. My home in HEAVEN

“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?” Luke 9:25 (NLT)

KEY TRUTH: We don’t lose our VALUE!

HOW DOES GOD’S MERCY “SAVE” ME?

1. It rescues me from MYSELF.

“There is one God and one mediator so that human beings can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus...” 1 Timothy 2:5 (NCV)

“Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.” Psalm 50:15 (NLT)

2. It recovers my POTENTIAL.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28 (MSG)

“I will give you back what you lost in the years when the swarm of locusts ate all your crops.” Joel 2:25 (GNT)

3. It reconnects me to GOD.

“Anyone who connects to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything becomes new. God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (CEV)

HOW DO I GET CONNECTED WITH GOD’S MERCY?

1. I must become **DISCONTENT** with the ways things are right now.
"... he wasted it all ... he had nothing left ... he got desperate and hungry ... then he finally came to his senses ..." Luke 15:13-17 (NIV)

God: *"You'll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else."*
Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG)

2. I **OWN** up to my own mess.
"When he came to his senses, he said ... 'I have sinned against God and you ...'" Luke 15:17-18 (NIV)

3. I **HUMBLE** myself.
"The son drifted away saying 'give me my share ...'" Luke 15:12 (NIV)

"He returned to the Father saying, 'Make me a servant.'" Luke 15:19 (NIV)

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

"... his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Bring the best signet ring. My son who was lost has been found.'" Luke 15:20 (NIV)

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)