

Lost #2 – Lost and Loved!

Luke 15

Those of us in church have heard it all of our lives
Even those with no church background know it's meaning –

Movies, songs, just general experience -

Don't get lost!

You're going to get lost?

I think we're... lost!

I'm lost!

I've heard it all my life, and preached it all my ministry...

This morning - I wonder...

- If maybe we've heard it so much that we've become accustomed to it
- If we read through and miss the personal glimpses reflected.

We can sometimes picture "them", but rarely "me"

Next week: Explicit description of what it means to be "lost"

Today -

- **An intriguing encounter.**
- **A scandalous world premier... Created quite a stir.**
 - Angered some.
 - Drew others.
 - Left for us...

Why?

- Warm, fuzzy stories? That response is probably because of a culture gap and massive disconnect
- There is something profound... personal... real... needed.

We've been here before... my prayer is that it will be like the first time.

- **That we will sit like children listening to the great storyteller, and**
- **That the staggering truths He unlocked that day will capture us... forever.**

I. Introduction:

Quickly in, we find

- **Curiosity** – Something drew them...
 - Something about Jesus drew them
 - Somehow they were searching
- **Questions...**
- **Criticism, slander, accusations.**
- **Then – answers – in story form!**

II. Revelation.

Then... **5x times – Lost.** **The Stories...**

- **To angry critics, nasty religious personalities, as well as multitudes of unsuspecting seekers**
- **Questions:**
 - ***What Is God really like?***
 - ***Who are we, really?***

(Our title provides a hint – Lost and Loved!)

How many ways are there to be lost? “SINNERS”

The Truthful answer – there are as many ways as there are people!

Parables – stories - Always one over-arching truth:

The Big Questions: What is God like? How does He view “sinners”?

In our Storytime – Jesus – At least 4 Different ways to be lost, and God’s response.
We are all sinners – many things in common; but we are uniquely different...

- See if they look familiar
- See if maybe it’s you reflected
- See if maybe... we see a little of ourselves in each...

Are you ready. Let’s step in Jesus’ Storytime:

1) The little lost sheep.

A. The Lamb – The focus- ONE.

Dumb. Dirty. Defenseless. DOOMED.

B. The Shepherd

Left...

Found & rescued

Put on his shoulders and carried him home

Was it worth it? -Rejoicing!

C. The Reflection:

“All we like sheep have gone astray...”

There were those that day, and today, that...

- Lost.
- In darkness.
- Knew enough to be terrified... even to make it worse... scared.
Lost!

- **This lost sheep/sinner - Knew a mess – but no idea how got there, or worse, how to get home.**
- **The Savior - Phil. 2 – Let all... paid all... (Heb 12) for the joy that was set before Him!**
- **Was it worth it?**

“joy in heaven... one sinner”

2) The lost coin

A. Clueless – Didn’t know it was

Valuable.

Special.

Lost.

Scandalous - What was this Jesus telling us about these reprobate, nasty sinners in a story of – a coin?

- Valuable?
- Missed? “While we were yet sinners...”

- Ridiculous!

Today – our world like perhaps no other – blinds us to our lostness.

Education.

Position.

Power.

Substitutes – relationships, distractions, etc...

Noise – deafening; numbing

The Story – The Solution –

- One who had the awareness and ability
- One who loved and valued
 - Went
 - Searched
 - Shined light – to find those who don't even know how lost they are.

3) The rebellious, self-absorbed brat of a son

The Boy –

His rebellion

His road

His ruin

His return

The Father – Not the expected, traditional, cultural response - Scandalous!

Maybe

- We know someone...
- We ARE the someone...
- Some – painfully aware and wonder – *What Does He Think? Would He Ever Let Me Come Home?*

4) The squeaky clean, self-absorbed, self-righteous son, the elder brother

So close... and yet so far away.

Resting in his perceived morality and resources rather than his father's relationship.

Cf. – Matthew 7:21-23 – “Lord, Lord... we have”

III. Application

Only those who see themselves as lost will ever find and appreciate the love of God that seeks them to rescue and redeem.

Something for every single person –

For those who can say –

“I once was lost, but now am found!” – Hopefully our wonder – “Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be.. children of God.”

For those who can't -

Our Prayer, hope – that maybe as you gather and listen today, as they did that day – it will dawn upon you that you are lost, and that before this day is over, you will be found forever by the love of God.

You see – YOU are the reason... For Him, for us...