

Found and Celebrated: Remembering
God's Faithfulness and the Value of
Every Soul

20 Sept 2...

What does it mean to truly matter to someone? In Luke 15, verses 1 through 10, Jesus tells two short parables that answer that question in the most profound way possible. A shepherd leaves 99 sheep to search for one that is lost. A woman turns her entire house upside down looking for a single coin. In both cases, the search is relentless, the finding is joyful, and the celebration is public. These stories are not just about sheep and coins. They are about us. They are a vivid picture of how God sees each one of us, not as one among many, but as irreplaceable, worth pursuing, worth celebrating. As we reflect on the past year and the ways God has moved in our lives, these parables invite us to ask ourselves a powerful question: do we truly believe that we are that valuable to God? And if we do, how does that change the way we live, the way we treat others, and the way we celebrate what He has done?

1.

Psalm 77:11 speaks of actively recalling what God has done as a spiritual discipline -- in what ways might intentionally remembering God's past faithfulness change how you face your current challenges?

2.

In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd leaves the 99 to pursue the one -- what does this tell us about how God assigns worth and value to people, and how might this challenge the way we view those around us who seem far from God?

3.

The lost coin parable shows a woman searching persistently until she finds what was lost -- in what areas of your life do you sense God actively pursuing you, and how have you responded to that pursuit?

4.

Both parables end not with quiet relief but with communal celebration -- why do you think God designed the response to restoration to be a shared, public experience rather than a private one, and what might that mean for how we celebrate spiritual victories in community?

5.

Danielle described her family as being in survival mode and going through the motions of faith before finding genuine community -- what is the difference between practicing religion out of habit and actively placing God first, and what tends to shift a person from one to the other?

6.

Revelation 12:11 connects personal testimony to spiritual victory -- how does sharing what God has done in your life serve as both an act of worship and a weapon against discouragement and doubt?

7.

Danielle noted that her children began using their faith to comfort one another in small, daily moments -- what does this suggest about how faith is truly transferred and modeled within a family or close community?

8.

The sermon highlights that seemingly small acts of kindness -- like inviting a family to a garage sale or to Christmas dinner -- can become turning points in someone's spiritual journey -- how does this challenge you to reconsider the significance of ordinary moments of generosity and hospitality?

9.

Pastor Heather describes Bethel as a place where people feel safe to come as they are, with their mistakes and imperfections - what does it practically take for a church community to cultivate that kind of safety,

10.

Danielle shared that one of the hardest parts of her situation was accepting that she could not fix everything herself and had to trust a process beyond her control -- how does surrendering control to God differ from passive

and what threatens it?

resignation, and what role does community play in helping us hold on through that kind of waiting?

Remember...

“You are that valuable treasure that God is pursuing. God pursues us patiently and persistently..”