

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families



Get Lost

EVANGELIST RYAN NEER

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

LUKE 15:4-10 KJV

Only that which has been lost can be found. In our passage, we see two instances of things being lost. In the first example, the sheep has been lost out in the field. The shepherd goes out to find the one that was lost. In the second instance, a woman loses one of her ten pieces of silver. In that day, those ten pieces of silver were her dowry, and holding on to those coins signified her faithfulness to her groom. To have lost one coin, would have meant she had not been faithful, even though she retained 90% of those coins. Her coin was lost in her house. In order to find her coin, she lit a candle, enabling her to see. When the candle was lit, it revealed that her home needed to be swept, as dirt had accumulated, making it difficult to find the one coin.

Many may find themselves lost in the field, or lost in the world. The prodigal son knew he was lost when he came to himself and realized the servants in his father's house did not lack food and he had been eating out of pigs' troughs. He had to first recognize his "lostness" in order to return to his father. We may also find ourselves lost in the "house" - inside the church. We may be 90% in our walk with God, but we have lost a little bit, perhaps only 10%. As James 2:10 tells us, 10% lost is still lost. We, like Adam in the Garden of Eden, need a revelation of where we are in our relationship with God. Until we recognize that we are lost, we cannot take the steps necessary to find what we have lost. Allow the light of hearing and reading the Word to illuminate where you are and what you may have lost. Then seek diligently - "get on your knees" - to find that which was lost.

Application

Proverbs 20:27 says, "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly." We must shine the light of the Spirit of the Lord inside of our hearts to see what we have lost. We may not even know we are lost because we are faithfully attending church, but have lost just a little bit, or a mere 10%. The light of the Spirit will allow us to see what actions we must take to find the lost portions of our walk with the Lord.

Discussion

1. Think about when you were first born-again. Do you find yourself with the same passion and love for God, or have those things waned?
2. The time of COVID-19 has been a blessing to some, allowing God to reveal things while life has slowed down. Have you found yourself growing closer to the Lord during this time, or have you found yourself filling the extra time with food and entertainment?
3. Is anything in my house accommodating any degree of lostness?

Prayer Focus

Pray that the Spirit of the Lord would reveal what has been lost in your walk with Him.

Pray for the prodigals, that they would recognize they are lost and desire to be in their Father's house.

Pray for your church family to recognize where they are in their relationship with the Father.