

SUMMER

AT

EPIC

**Summer at Epic - Part 7 – Friend of Sinners  
Ray Hammond - August 11, 2019**

**Jesus:** “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”  
– Luke 19:10

**THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP – Luke 15:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. <sup>2</sup> This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people – even eating with them!

<sup>3</sup> So Jesus told them this story: <sup>4</sup> “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?”

<sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. <sup>6</sup> When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’

<sup>7</sup> In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!”

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon.” <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” – Matthew 11:18-19

**SHARING MY HOPE IN JESUS**

**1) ACCEPT my responsibility.**

<sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us.  
– 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

<sup>36</sup> When he [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”  
– Matthew 9:36-38

**2) LIVE it and SHARE it.**

But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. Yet do it with courtesy and respect...  
– 1 Peter 3:15-16

**3) Remember that PEOPLE are not PROJECTS.**

<sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. – Colossians 4:5-6

- **WHO in your life needs the hope of Jesus?**