

Luke 15 – 2 July 2023

“A Heart To Find The Lost”

Introduction

- *Beginning in Chap 10, Jesus is going thru Judean cities on His way to Jerusalem for final time
- *In Chap 14, we received a great teaching from Jesus on grace, humility and love
- *This has compelled many of the down & out & flat-out sinners to begin following Jesus
 - *The Pharisees are scoffing at Jesus for receiving such sinners

So today, we'll see some characteristics of receiving sinners and finding the lost

#1: There is joy in finding the lost (Vs 1-10)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Sinners were the people that had given up trying to live right by God's Law
2. Pharisees saw themselves as better b/c they were trying to live according to God's Law
3. Pharisees problem was both those that were trying to rid sin (Pharisees) & those that had given up trying (sinners) were BOTH yet in their sins
4. Read Luk 5:30-32

Read Vs 3-4

1. Isn't indicating 99 aren't enough, it's saying that the one is desired just as much as the others
2. The man isn't 'trying' to find the sheep, he's intent on finding the sheep indeed
3. This is a parable so we know Jesus is saying that this is His heart for His people

Read Vs 5-6

1. The joy of returning a lost one from the inevitable result of destruction back into safety
2. This joy should be spread abroad

Read Vs 7

1. There was a real potential of this sheep being forever lost, so there is a real sense of joy
2. There's great evidence to salvation if they went to the place of being lost & have chosen to return

Read Vs 8

1. 1 of 100, now it's 1 of 10, point is, it's just 1
 - a. Jesus would have come to your rescue even if you were the only one that needed saving
2. W/ sheep, emphasis was they're willing to go to the lost; here emphasis is the effort during the search
 - a. Jesus not only left the glory of heaven, but spent 33 yrs in this sin-cursed world shining the light & sweeping the house

Read Vs 9-10

1. Again analogy is to person that chooses to change their mind & allow God to rescue them from sin
2. The joy tied to this event is so real that even the angels join in rejoicing

#2: Takes patience to receive the lost (Vs 11-24)

Read Vs 11-12

1. Inheritance could be given before or after death but usually after – shows the son's greed
2. The father would have known the heart of his son that he was living in rebellion in his heart & wants to make that his practice

Read Vs 13

1. We call this the story of the Prodigal Son, but do you know what prodigal means?
 - a. *Wastefully or recklessly extravagant*
2. Many teens leave the home in rebellion
 - a. May they not leave b/c we've provoked them to anger
 - i. Yet some will still head out in rebellion
 - b. If we've been loving & godly when they leave, they'll know (in their pain) that they have a place to return to
 - i. A place of love is attractive

Read Vs 14

1. Trials will come to us all
 - a. Will they prompt you toward God or away?
 - b. Same sun melts the wax, yet hardens clay
2. Believers will plan for a certain amount of trial
 - a. Read Eph 6:13

Read Vs 15-16

1. Feeding swine is against the Law of God
2. Sin will take you farther than you want to go and cost you more than you want to pay

Read Vs 17

1. Trials led him to know how good his father is
2. *“If you see them will you love them like I do, and maybe they’ll remember who I am”* -Sherri Y.
3. It’s ok to talk to yourself (ha)
 - a. ‘Why are you cast down O my soul’
 - b. ‘Bless the Lord, O my soul’
 - c. ‘Said to himself, I’ll build bigger barns’

Read Vs 18-19

1. Read Hos 5:15
2. Leave people w/ such a sweet taste of the Lord, that when trial comes, they know they can turn to us
3. Notice the confession, repentance & humility

Read Vs 20

1. Father was ready to forgive as soon as son came
2. But notice father never went to son while in sin

Read Vs 21-24

1. Didn't just restore him to place of a son (not servant), but killed the fatted calf
 - a. This is a celebration with great grace!!
2. This great joy isn't b/c the son 'did' something, but b/c he believed something, b/c he changed his mind in belief about who his father was
 - a. Believing God is what will change a life from eternally dead to eternally alive!
 - b. What joy!

#3: Grace is given to the repentant lost (Vs 25-32)

Read Vs 25-28

1. Didn't wrong the elder; simply showed great grace to the prodigal (Turn to Matt 20:1-16)
2. We often mistakenly have too high a view of what we deserve to receive

Read Vs 29-30

1. His anger & jealousy only prevents himself from having the joy that he should have
 - a. Our bitterness does way more harm to ourselves than to the one we're angry with
2. Elder is focused on his works for years (vs 29)

Read Vs 31-32

1. We should be way more interested in people passing from death to life than human efforts
2. All a criticizer even wants is justice, all a sinner ever wants is grace
3. Entire chap was given by Jesus as the answer to the Pharisees heart problem expressed in vs 2

Conclusion

How about us? Do we have the heart of the man, women and father in today's accounts? Or do we have the heart of the Pharisees and the elder son?

- 1. Do we understand just how great a joy comes from restoring the lost into the presence of God again?**
- 2. Do with live in patience waiting w/ forgiveness in our hearts to receive the lost at repentance?**
- 3. Do we give unmerited grace and gifts to those who come to God in faith?**

Let us have a heart that is reaching out to sinners

Let us see them as lost, not vile

Let us see them as dead in sin, but the Jesus can bring them life eternal!