

HOPE for NKY

There is HOPE: God's Solution...

The NKY Baptist Association is collaborating in prayer, messages, and action to proclaim the Gospel in our community. There is an epidemic in society and culture pulling people's hearts, minds, and spirits away for the only HOPE they could ever have. The result of that epidemic is a community filled with our own family, friends, and neighbors who lack faith, lack hope, and lack an eternal home. But, there is HOPE. And, when we understand the glory of the Gospel and the tragedy of unbelief, we will develop a deep burden for the lost.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10

When we grasp the fullness of what God has accomplished to seek and save the lost, we realize the power and joy the Gospel holds in offering HOPE!

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:1-7

God's Compassionate Pursuit

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? Luke 15:3-4

God is not passive, but intentional and active in His pursuit.
Jesus came to not just seek, but to save.

Saving people was never a secondary goal for Jesus' ministry; it was His primary purpose in His seeking!

What's the Point?

Who around you is spiritually lost? Who might God be calling you to pursue to tell of His compassion and message of HOPE?

In God's seeking of the lost, there must also be a way for those found to be returned to Him. The shepherd not only seeks, but he himself brings the lost one back.

God's Costly Rescue

5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. Luke 15:5

The Shepherd Bears the Burden.
This is the Gospel (Good News)!

The lost sheep contributed nothing to its rescue. The shepherd did all of the work and He didn't do it grudgingly, but he rejoiced in the rescue!

What's the Point?

Do you remember when you were saved, when you were found and restored to the Lord?
Can you recall a recent new believer's testimony and how exciting it was to hear of Christ's saving work in his or her life?

Our Shared Celebration

6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:6-7

Every person/soul matters!
The height of celebration is due to the depths of lostness.

What's the point?

How are we as a church celebrating our salvations and baptisms?
Do we join the heavenly host in celebration or are we leaving the angels alone to this joy?
How are we preparing to celebrate the next lost sheep bought and brought back to the fold?

Let's let every testimony of salvation renew our passion to reach more! We need to do so before it's too late.

Joining hands in the search: "Oh, God, if we had only joined hands sooner."

We need to join hands as the church, sweeping across the mission fields of our communities and seeking people who are spiritually lost. May we never regret that we didn't join hands sooner and may we truly rejoice every time a sinner repents.

He has done what we could not.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Who around you is spiritually lost? Who might God be calling you to pursue to tell of His compassion and message of HOPE?

Tuesday – Do you remember when you were saved, when you were found and restored to the Lord? What is your story about what God has accomplished in your life? Be ready to tell it!

Wednesday – Can you recall a recent new believer's testimony and how exciting it was to hear of Christ's saving work in his or her life? How did you spirit feel hearing of this salvation?

Thursday -- How are we as a church celebrating our salvations and baptisms? Do we join the heavenly host in celebration or are we leaving the angels alone to this joy?

Friday – Do you love Jesus? Enough to see through His eyes? Enough to weep for the lost? Enough to pray for them? Enough to bring them to Jesus? Tell someone your story about Him this week.