



## How Sought is Sought by God?

November 22, 2020 Message Notes

LUKE 15

Luke 15 can be considered the Lost & Found department of the Bible. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. He lights the lamp, he sweeps the house; in other words, he searches carefully until he finds us. However, God won't force you against your will. He will wait for you to come to him and let yourself be found. What's your choice?



## NOTES

**If being far from God is left untreated, the outcome is not good.**

“Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

*ROMANS 3:23 NLT*

“The wages of sin is death...”

*ROMANS 6:23 NLT*

“The highway to hell is broad and its gate wide for the many who choose that way.”

*MATTHEW 7:13 NLT*

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. But only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

*MATTHEW 7:21 NIV*

Not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven.

“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’”

*MATTHEW 7:22 NIV*

“Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

*MATTHEW 7:23 NIV*

Jesus warned that if our far-from-God symptoms are left untreated, it will have eternal consequences – judgment.

We have a moral perspective because we are made in the image of a moral God.

**Choices have consequences. Responsibility is part of our humanity.**

**Accountability** is the way we affirm responsibility, and **responsibility** is the way we affirm human empowerment, choice and freedom.

Holding people responsible for their choices makes them and us more human, not less.

How sought is sought by God?



“Your Father in heaven isn’t willing that any of these little ones should perish.”

*MATTHEWS 18:14 NIV*

“God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

*1 TIMOTHY 2:4*

“God is not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

*2 PETER 3:8*

**Repentance** means a change of mind, a change within.

### **How far will God go to reach the missing?**

God will spare no expense to reach and recover those far from Him.

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?”

*LUKE 15:4*

This is what God has done in Christ for you, and for every one of us lost and far from God.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”

*JOHN 10:11, 18*

“Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”

*LUKE 15:8*

### **We are unique treasures but powerless to help ourselves get found.**

In Christ, God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

*JOHN 8:12*

Through his body, the church, Christ has swept over the world and is still seeking so that *whosoever will, may come*.

God **humbled** himself in Christ to enter the house he made for humans, as a human.

Even on the cross, He never loses sight of the precious treasure he has come to rescue. *Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing.*



The shepherd goes after the sheep. The woman searches diligently for her lost treasure. But the prodigal son's father doesn't go after him.

Have you ever wondered if it's possible to be so far from God that you are too far gone? Too far gone to be reached or recovered? So far gone that God won't waste anymore time or effort on you?

Have you ever thought that about someone else?

“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”

*MATTHEW 24:10-12*

How gone are we?

“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teaching that come from demons.”

“These people are hypocrites and liars and their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods.”

*1 TIMOTHY 4:1-3*

This comes from people who reject God but want to make their own rules for living without God, and then judge others by them.

“I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, ‘What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?’”

*2 PETER 3:3-4*

“He destroyed the ancient world with a mighty flood and the present heaven and earth are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.”

*2 PETER 3:7*

There is coming a day when every godless word and deed will be called to account, when the righteous judge will declare verdict and sentence.

We can't save ourselves.

- We are lost by **nature** - like sheep who go astray and can't help it. So God comes in Christ as a good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.



- We are lost by **circumstance** - lost to value, lost to meaning, cast aside by situations and we can't find our way out of the dark. So God comes in Christ as the light of the world, helping us find the way.
- We are lost by **choice** - get ourselves into messes we can't fix by ourselves. But the father doesn't come get us out. He waits to see if we will come to the moment of truth.

“When he came to his senses he said ‘I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men’ So he got up and went to his father.”

*LUKE 15:17-20*

When you are lost by choice, nothing is going to change until you are ready to make a different choice.

God won't force you against your will. God will wait and see if you are ever going to learn that you can't save yourself.

You can choose to come home and let yourself be found.

When you die, what are you going to do?

You are not big enough to stand before a holy God. You need help.

God, in Christ, has come to bring help. But if you don't choose, you lose.

