



How Far Is Far From God?

November 15, 2020 Message Notes
LUKE 15

People can get far from God. We can get lost from the sense of His presence and blessing in our lives. We can get lost like a sheep from its flock – we can also get found. Are there things making you feel far from God today?



NOTES

Jesus tells stories about things that were lost and then found.

How far is far from God?

We can get lost from the sense of His presence and blessing in our lives.

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

LUKE 15:4 NLT

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one of them. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”

LUKE 15:8 NLT

“There was a man who had two sons. The youngest said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.”

LUKE 15:11-12 NLT

“Not long after that the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.”

LUKE 15:13 NLT

“After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.”

LUKE 15:14 NLT

“So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.”

LUKE 15:15 NLT

“He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.”

LUKE 15:16 NLT

How do people like us find ourselves lost in life?

Lost like sheep: aimless, no purpose, and following our appetites

“Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”



Human beings can be misled by our appetites and find ourselves in trouble.

Before we know it, we've taken the bait of some shiny thing we want and find ourselves lost or losing something that really matters.

Lost like a coin: taken out of circulation, worthless, cast aside, useless.

Circumstances can throw us for a loop and we feel lost to our sense of value or worth.

Lost like a child: disconnected, loveless, full of self, rebellious.

Sometimes we get disconnected and on dead-ends because of our pride. Our own choices leave us lonely, empty, alienated, isolated, far from home, and far from love.

You can be far from God like a sheep is far from a shepherd or flock.

You've turned to your own way.

You can be far from God like a coin is far from its setting and usefulness.

You feel worthless or overlooked, injured.

You can be far from God like a rebellious child, distanced from parents and home.

Some are far from God because they've chosen to treat him as if he were dead and wish he would leave them alone so they can do their own thing.

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

LUKE 15:2

"God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

JOHN 3:17

If you've ever thought, I'm too far gone, too far from God to come home, to enter into his love and life – you're not!

What can you do if you find yourself far from God?

Let yourself feel it. Don't bury or deny it. Let yourself want to change.

And then what?

Let yourself be found.



When you turn with an honest and open heart, seeking God's blessing and presence in Christ, he will not turn you away.

"All those the Father gives me will come to me and whoever comes to me I will never turn away."

JOHN 6:37

"I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person and they with me."

REVELATION 3:20

Thank God he still welcomes sinners!

