



## How Happy is Found in God?

November 29, 2020 Message Notes

LUKE 15

Embraced. Known. Accepted. Received. Celebrated. We become and are gifted these when we allow ourselves to be found by God. It doesn't mean we won't still struggle with the challenges of our nature, circumstances and choices. However, the good news is we won't be far from God as we do. He'll be with us all the way. To Jesus, to be found by God is to be incredibly happy. Joy this big has got to be shared.



## NOTES

“...he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep’.”

*LUKE 15:6*

“...she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin’.”

*LUKE 15:9*

“...while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him...”

*LUKE 15:20*

“Let’s have a feast and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.”

*LUKE 15:23*

**To Jesus, to be found by God is to be incredibly happy. Joy this big has got to be shared.**

The sheep, the coin and the son may be happy to be found, but the joy starts with the one doing the finding.

“There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who don’t need to.”

*LUKE 15:7*

“I tell you there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

*LUKE 15:10*

**Jesus wants you to know God gets really happy when those far from Him are found!**

“...filled with inexpressible and glorious joy.”

*1 PETER 1:8*

“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”

*1 TIMOTHY 6:6*

**Jesus not only saves, He satisfies.**



“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full.”

*JOHN 15:11*

Jesus told these stories because he wants us there.

*How do we get there from here?*

People can be far from God – at risk and vulnerable.

If you’ve ever said: “it’s only natural” or “it’s not my fault” or “it’s what I want,” you can find yourself in these stories.

People are lost from God and his blessing in life by **nature**, by **circumstance**, and by **choice**.

### **“It’s only natural.” (Nature)**

We are prone to wander and follow our appetites.

“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants and the Spirit gives us desires. These forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”

*GALATIANS 5:17*

Adam and Eve chose to aim the trajectory of human beings away from God and His will. History has been spiraling into chaos and destruction ever since.

A sheep can’t change its nature and we can’t change ours, but the Shepherd can come to the rescue if we’ll let Him.

### **“It’s not my fault, I’m a victim.” (Circumstance)**

Circumstances beyond our control loosen and yank us out of our settings, leaving us feeling devalued and invisible.

**Jesus wants you to know that the mess you’re in is not all your fault.**

We need to be rescued from our nature and restored from our circumstance.

The Manager of the house can restore you if you are willing to let it happen.

### **“It’s what I want.” (Choice)**

Sometimes we are not the victim of our nature or circumstances but have a say in the matter.

We can be full of self-will and self-interest, and be self-absorbed and self-centered.



The younger brother was self-indulgent.  
“Give me my share of the estate.”

*LUKE 15:12*

He would wind up with a wasted life, lonely, hungry, and hurting.

The older brother was full of self-righteousness and self-pity.

“All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.”

*LUKE 15:29*

He was focused on the rules but was far from a relationship with the father.

Religion can be a killer when it treats a relationship with God like a transactional contract, where God ‘owes’ you because you’ve been good.

Did you know it’s possible to go to church yet still not know God? To be far from his joy, love and blessing?

If you’ve ever felt like God wasn’t giving you what you want, Jesus is talking about you.

What is it God wants us to see?

How do we get to the happy ending from here?

“Death and destruction lie open before the Lord – how much more do human hearts.”

*PROVERBS 15:11*

God sees more clearly than any of us what lies at journey’s end if we live and die far from him – lost.

He wants us to see and feel what He wants for us if we are willing to let ourselves be found – be rescued, restored, redeemed.

**Christianity is:**

- letting the Savior rescue you and give you a purpose to live every day with Him guiding and providing for you.
- letting the Lord restore you to your rightful place and position in the house where you can make meaningful contributions.
- letting the Father welcome you all the way home, covering all costs to get you out of yourself and into the fullness of your identity as his child.

**God is not out to get you, He wants to save you.**



**God is not out to condemn you, He wants to satisfy you.**

His holiness must judge sin but his heart is set on having you home.

We need to be redeemed and set free from our bondage. That's what Christ did with His blood.

The party God is inviting us to cannot be earned, deserved or achieved – but it can be received.

God in Christ has covered all costs and He can change the trajectory of our lives, if we are willing to let Him.

“Find me, Lord. I'm open. I'm willing. Help me think of you in new ways. Guide me to know who I am as your child. Forgive my sins. Come into my life. I want to enter into all you have for me.”

**To be happy in Jesus is to be fully found, embraced, known, accepted, received and celebrated by God and the angels of heaven.**

This doesn't mean you won't still struggle with the challenges of your nature, your circumstances and your choices. It does mean you won't be far from God as you do.

**He will be with you in Christ, your Savior.  
He will be for you as your Father in heaven.  
He will be in you by his Holy Spirit.**

The joy of the Lord will be your strength until our final happy ending in heaven.

