

RED Letter Stories9 **“Lost and Found and a Party”**

You look for what's valued and loved. You look for what's yours. You look for what's lost. You do what it takes to find it. You aren't satisfied until you find it. Exponentially, a Heavenly Father has set out to find what has been lost. The human heart, lost in its own sin, is the tender target of a seeking Savior. Jesus tells a story about lost. He tells this story about us...a lost us; and He tells a story about what He will do to find lost!

Jesus' Story

Luke 15:4-9 NAS

*4 "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine * in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?*

5 "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 which was lost!'

7 "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

9 "When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!'

Jesus' Point

-Here is the context which prompts these stories from Jesus:

1 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him.

2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

3 So He told them this parable, saying,

-Since Jesus was hanging out with the “wrong crowd”, he tells a story to explain why rather than mounting a defense.

-To be clear, He wasn't like them, but He accepted them in their sin.

-Jesus didn't require or expect them to look righteous.

The parable of the lost sheep

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The parable of the lost coin

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9 "When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!'

10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Our Take Aways

-Lost is supremely important to God; actually, Jesus came for lost.

-If finding and rescuing lost is this important, then the church should have this as Priority One as well.

-Celebrating "lost to found" stories here is reflective of what happens in heaven.

-So who is important to the church? Who is important to you?

Bottom Line - To love like God loves is to find and love those far from Him.