

"The LOST Sheep"

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Icebreaker:

Which of your possessions were recently lost? Recently found?

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus hung out with tax collectors & other notorious sinners – we should, too!

General Discussion [Groups of 4]:

Jesus wasn't interested in saving the righteous – but he reached out to the despised & outcast. The righteous looked at Jesus and they ridiculed him... Are we willing to repent of our hard hearts and be like Jesus – look for lost sheep, even if they are "notorious sinners"?

Read Luke 15:1-7

1. What are some new truths that strike you from this passage?
2. Describe some possible "features" of a lost sheep? (reflect on David's message) Then, contextualize a lost sheep in the circle of your life...
3. Have you ever been "lost"? What did that look like? Did someone come after you?

Read Mark 10:46-52

4. How do you respond when a beggar or pan-handler approaches you? Why?
5. What is significant about the way this blind man addresses Jesus?
6. Notice Jesus interaction with Bartimaeus... He knew Bartimaeus was blind, but he still asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" What was Jesus looking for? And what did Jesus say "healed" the man?
7. Bartimaeus was born blind... pretty tough life, eh. Did he deserve it? Many who are "lost" also have pretty tough lives... Sometimes our hearts are hard. How can we soften our hearts – and see the "lost" through Jesus eyes?

Application.

8. If you try to reach LOST sheep, there may be times you'll be accused of being a lost sheep yourself. Being like Jesus is risky. Are you afraid of taking risks like this? If so, why? If not, share some ways you can/are reaching LOST sheep now!
9. David asked us all to REPENT! To say, "I'm sorry for my hard heart! It's not right. Have mercy on me and change my heart of stone into a heart of flesh!" How did you react to this call to repentance? And what does this mean to you?

Please pray for one another that we would be willing to leave the 99 and FIND that 1 lost sheep!