

Message: No. 5  
Series: The Miracle of Mercy  
Passage: Luke 15:3-25  
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## HOW MUCH YOU MATTER TO GOD

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*"I have come to seek and to save those who are lost."*

Luke 19:10

The story of the lost sheep. The story of the lost coin. The story of the lost son.

### Luke 15:3-25

<sup>3</sup>So Jesus told them this story: <sup>4</sup>"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. <sup>6</sup>When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'<sup>7</sup>In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

<sup>8</sup>"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.'<sup>10</sup>In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."

<sup>11</sup>To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

<sup>13</sup>"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup>About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup>He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup>and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

<sup>20</sup>“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup>And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, <sup>26</sup>and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return ...

<sup>32</sup>We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

## WHAT DO YOU LOSE IF YOU’RE LOST?

### 1. You lose your direction.

“All of us have strayed away just like lost sheep. We’ve all left God’s path to follow our own ways.” And we always get lost when we follow our own ways.  
Isaiah 53:6

### 2. You lose God’s protection.

“My people are wandering like lost sheep, without a shepherd to protect and guide them.”  
Zechariah 10:2

“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

### 3. You lose your potential.

“To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”

Ephesians 3:20

### 4. You lose your happiness.

“About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve.”

Luke 15:14

### 5. You lose your home in heaven.

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul?”

Luke 9:25

## HOW DOES GOD’S MERCY “SAVE” ME?

### 1. Salvation rescues me from myself.

“Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. He became a human and gave himself to rescue all of us.”  
1 Timothy 2:5

### 2. Salvation recovers my potential.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and worn out from carrying too much. Learn to trust and rest in me and you’ll recover your life.”

Matthew 11:28

### 3. Salvation reconnects me to God.

“If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”  
2 Corinthians 5:17-18

## HOW DO I CONNECT WITH GOD’S MERCY?

### 1. Get fed up with your life.

“He wasted it all... he had nothing left ... he got desperate and hungry ... then he finally came to his senses.

### 2. Own up to my sin.

“When he finally came to his senses... he said, “Father, I have sinned”

### 3. Offer up myself.

“I want my share of your estate now...Please take me on as a hired servant”

“Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”

“My son who was lost has been found.”

### John 3:16

“God so loved the world, he loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.”