

October 13, 2019
LOVE UNLEASHED - Part 8
“Love Seeks”

Our sin has separated us from God, and God’s Word tells us that the result of that sin is eternal death, unless we place our faith in Jesus Christ, that his death on the cross paid the price for our sins and the sins of the world.

It would be one thing if we had to hunt for this gift, but the Good News is that God is constantly seeking us out, in order to offer us this gift.

And as we seek to follow Jesus as his disciples, we’re called to share that same news with others.

Love is accepting someone for who they are and sacrificially working for their good.

Luke 15:1-2 (ESV): “¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’”

Jesus was different – he welcomed “the tax collectors and sinners.”

Jesus had had enough of the religious leaders grumbling, but instead of chastising them, he told them a parable, the *Parable of the Lost Sheep*.

Luke 15:4-7 (ESV): “⁴What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Jesus says there’s a celebration anytime one who was lost is found.

Jesus does something unusual – he tells another parable, a parable that makes a very similar point, the *Parable of the Lost Coin*.

Luke 15:8-10 (ESV): “⁸Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Not once but twice Jesus has told the religious leaders that God really does care about those who are lost, those who are far from God.

Jesus is telling “the tax collectors and sinners” that they really, really matter to God.

Jesus tells a *third* parable that makes much the *same point*, the *Parable of the Lost Son*.

The son could have kept pretending everything was ok, but somehow his circumstances finally got to him, and he realized how bad things had gotten.

Luke 15:17-19 (ESV): “¹⁷But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”

Jesus is telling us this parable to show us the love of our Heavenly Father, and how easy it is for anyone to find themselves in the same place as this son.

Luke 15:20 (ESV): “²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” ²²But the father said to his servants, “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.”

Jesus: ““For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”” (Luke 19:10 NLT)

Once again, when that which was lost was found, Jesus says there was a big celebration.

All heaven celebrates every time a soul turns to Christ, and that’s the attitude Jesus calls us to.

Jesus’ point was that every *one* matters to God, and if we’re striving to become more like Jesus, every *one* matters to us, too!

Jesus: ““³⁴So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”” (John 13:34-35 NLT)

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