

**Be 1 Make 1**  
**The Value of One: Luke 15:1-10**  
**Pastor Jerome Gay Jr.**

**Announcements**

- Grand Opening TODAY (Tour 4)!
- Bible Study Every Week at 7PM
- Praying over missionaries to Ghana.
- Baptisms pool is ready for you, TODAY!
- Let's Stay Together Valentine's Day Ball (pic)

As we start this year everyone has a vision board, new year's resolutions, goals and all of that is great, but there's something that we should never forget, any vision that doesn't include others is **too small** and I would go as far as to say it's not from God. **No vision that's from God is just about you.** It always includes others and blesses others because that's who God is and that's how God loves. **That's what this series is about,** it's about us doing what Jesus told us to do, the last thing Jesus told us to do was, "go" and we don't want the last thing that Jesus told us to do to be the first thing that we forget. Why? Because His mission was to rescue lost people and we were the ones needing rescue, He now has given us all the same mission and

purpose. Luke captures the essence of Jesus' when he records what Jesus said:

We're calling part one of this series **The Value of One** and I want you to think about **who's your one?** Don't let this year conclude without you sharing the gospel, don't just give them a flyer, share the gospel, don't just give a drive by church invitation, share the gospel. God has called you and equipped for at least one. **Go for it, they're worth it to Him and they should be worth it to you!**

**Luke 19:10**

10 For the Son of Man has come to **seek and to save** the lost."

Notice Jesus does the saving and He's sent us to do the sharing. **God reaches people not because He wants something from them, but because He wants something for them!**

**John 20:21**

Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so **I am sending you.**

**Thought Tattoo**

God measures success by your **willingness to share**, NOT your **inability to save.**

Four goals for this series:

1. Reach
2. Restore
3. Reproduce

#### 4. Release

With that in mind, quick question, **have you ever lost something?** Some of you may be notorious for losing your **keys**, losing loose change or losing things around the house. Here's what I know about losing things, **the passion with which you and I search for what's lost is determined by the value we place on what's missing.**

If you lose a penny you may or may not give it a second thought, but if you lose **\$100 bill**, you'll retrace your steps and you'll start looking at people sideways **(talking to yourself)** and **wondering if they stole your money.** If you lose a brush, you'll probably search, but I'd imagine you'd search with more intensity and fervor if you lost your **cell phone.** Why? **The value you placed on what's lost determines if you search and even how long you search.** Now imagine losing a **child**, regardless of age you'd stop at nothing because we'd all place the life of a child over lost keys, a cell phone, \$100 bill and anything else. **How many of you in here have more than one child? More than two? More than three?** Would any of you say if you lost one child, well at least I have two more so we're good? You would search high and low for your child even though you have others, you'd search far and wide and you'd involve others because **when a person is lost and loved, people search for them.**

This is picture Jesus is going to paint for us today, He's going to tell us that there are lost children all over the world of all **ages**, of all **races**, of all **economic backgrounds** and the

church in many cases has said, **we have two children left, so we don't need to go look for them.**

- 59%** of US churches have plateaued or declining
- 31%** of churches are growing through transfers
- 10%** are growing by reaching the lost

Jesus is going to challenge us by saying a church that doesn't intentionally search for, pray for, serve and talk to the lost is **like a parent that doesn't search for their missing child.** Family, we're starting this **Be 1 Make 1** series because God loves people and if we're His children we should love people too, love them enough to engage, serve, care for and talk to because one person matters that much to God. I never want this church to become a big fellowship group where only those that speak christianese are invited. **We should never get complacent with our size or our family because God always wants to add to it.**

Jesus is going to give us the beautiful imagery of a shepherd leaving the 99 to go after 1. **The point, every life matters to God. Every broken life, every drug addicted life, every porn addicted life, every divorced life, every single parent life, every anxiety filled life, every orphaned life, every fatherless life, every motherless life, every life matters to God.** Jesus uses an interesting technique to communicate this point our text gives us three examples in Luke 15 in the form of what's called a **parable.**

**What's a parable?**

An understanding of parables is essential if one is to understand the teaching of Jesus, since the **parables make up approximately 35 percent of his recorded sayings.** At no point are the vitality, relevance, and appropriateness of his teaching so clear as they are in his parables.<sup>1</sup> Simply put, **a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning to teach kingdom principles.** (not real, but certainly relevant)

Luke lays out three parables that Jesus shared to show us the value of one person:

- Lost Sheep** – God searches, protects and restores.
- Lost Coin** – God values us.
- Lost Sons** – God graciously receives us and covers us.

#### **Luke 15:1-2**

All the **tax collectors and sinners** were approaching to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

If you’re going to reach your one, the first thing you must:

#### **Take Note...**

Intentionally engage.

I love how it says that the people that **religious people** didn’t think had a place in church were the ones that wanted to listen to Jesus (don’t doubt the power of the gospel). **Notice Jesus made room for everyone at His table, not for them to stay**

**the same, but to experience His love.** Reaching people won’t happen by accident, we must be intentional about connecting with people in order to see them connected to God. Why? **Because most people will read you before they read the Bible,** DL Moody said it this way:

“Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.” – **DL Moody**

#### **What are you giving them to read?**

I always thought it was funny that when Luke wrote this that he had two categories of evil:

- Tax Collectors**
- Sinners**

**Tax Collectors in most cases were sinners, so why two categories?** The Romans collected a variety of taxes and sometimes they used Jewish people to collect taxes. **Dishonest individuals collected far more than they were required to pay and became a hated group, especially the Jews who cheated fellow Jews.** Zacchaeus, a Jew, was a “chief tax collector” who amassed considerable wealth in the Jericho area (Luke 19:2–10). Such men were regarded as sinners and were often linked

<sup>1</sup> Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, [“Parable,”](#) Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1606.

in the phrase “tax collectors and sinners” (Matt. 9:10–11; 11:19; Mark 2:15–16; Luke 5:30; 19:2–10).<sup>2</sup>

**The point is the most hated people in society had a place at the table with Jesus** (sex partners | adultery | record | lied | cheated | stole | **there’s room for you at God’s table**). In God’s economy, there aren’t degrees of lostness and God’s goal in reaching people was never for them to simply stop whatever it is they were doing, but rather to totally transform them from the inside out.

#### **Take Note...**

Must opportunity over optics.

Verse 2 says that the **Pharisees looked** and complained that Jesus sat and ate with sinners. **One of the worst feelings to endure is to feel like someone doesn’t want to be seen with you**, like they’re embarrassed to be seen with you in public. (private relationship) In other words, **Jesus didn’t care what the Pharisees thought about how it looked for him to be seen with what many considered to be the worst of society**. Jesus doesn’t see you in your current state and say that you have to come up before He’ll talk to you. **God doesn’t want you to simply look good**, He wants to be in a relationship with you.

**How many of you are scared to be seen with people that God is calling you to?** Don’t forget that when you were in

whatever you were in with whomever you were in it with, God didn’t care about how it looked or how you looked, **He placed a value on your soul**.

I’m glad that Jesus doesn’t care what you look like on the outside, but that He wants to transform you on the inside. Family let’s not judge people by how they look now in order to determine if we’ll engage them or not (short skirts, smelling like weed, not dressed well, etc. | **suit doesn’t save | well dressed and mean**). Forget the optics, just maximize the opportunity to share the love of God with people. **Remember the win is not in the saving, but in the sharing!**

#### **Luke 15:3-5**

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, **he joyfully puts it on his shoulders**,

#### **Take Note...**

**Desire for the detached.**

Sheep aren’t the smartest animals in the world, but they’re still loved by their shepherd. Remember, this is a parable, so, the focus isn’t sheep, but what the sheep represent, lost people. So, we have to ask a question, who are the lost?

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<sup>2</sup> Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, [Tyndale Bible Dictionary](#), Tyndale Reference Library (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), 1241.

- ❑ **Nones** – no religious affiliation.
- ❑ **Unchurched** – people not raised in religious homes.
- ❑ **Dechurched** – **people who stop going because they went.** Why? Like the Pharisees who judged who sat with Jesus many people haven't found love within the four walls of the church.

(barber | hairdresser | co-workers | manager | children | parents | YOU)

### What should people see?

- ❑ Authenticity – we ALL struggle
- ❑ Compassion – we ALL care
- ❑ Excitement – we're ALL hype about Jesus

**I hope no one comes to this church and has a Pharisee experience as if anyone in here can look down on someone.** Instead, we must show one word, compassion. **Notice, the shepherd doesn't fuss at the sheep, but rather he puts the sheep on his shoulders.** Are we willing to walk with people and carry their burdens? Don't forget that you were once lost and God sent a praying grandmother, a coach, a teacher, godly parents, he sent someone to spiritually put you on their shoulders to show you the love of God (Eph. 2 "but God..."). Our desire for the detached comes from our knowledge of self and the grace we've received.

**Luke 15:6**

6 and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!'

### Take Note...

Excited to evangelize.

Notice the shepherd tells everyone about his lost sheep. Notice the focus is on him being found more than his lostness. **What if one of the reasons people hate the church is because God forgives them of their past, but we choose not to because we keep using it against them.** I'm not saying that we completely forget who we used to be because it shows God's power to save, but it's important that we don't only highlight who you used to be and miss the fact that if you've given your life to Christ, you're a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

### Romans 1:15

15 So I am **eager to preach the gospel** to you also who are in Rome.

### Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

**Dunamis** – explosive power. Power to resurrect, power to save, power to heal, power to restore, power to reconcile, power to overcome the gates of hell that oppose you. **How could you keep this to yourself?**

## Luke 15:7

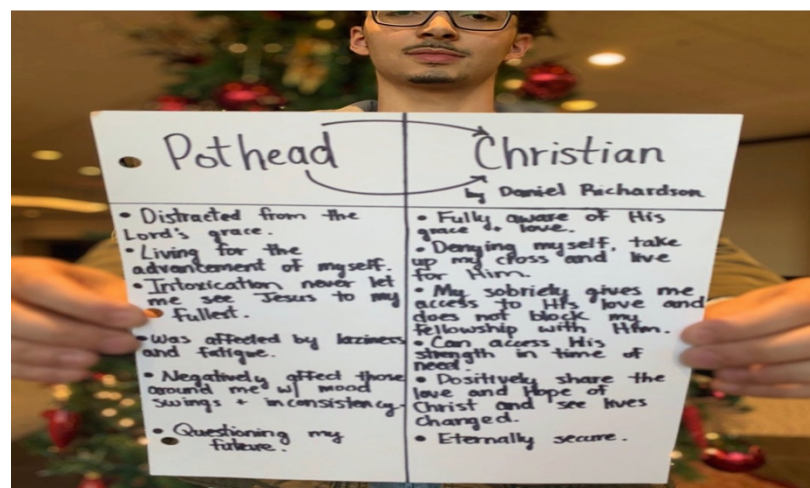
7 I tell you, in the same way, **there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance.

### Take Note...

Rejoice over restoration.

Heaven rejoices over each soul that trusts Christ. We should display the same excitement because God is still changing lives that many think are unchangeable. **Heaven rejoices, the angels rejoice, and we should rejoice over how God is changing lives.**

Recently there's been a lot of hoopla over the five major pageants because history was made in 2019. For the first time in US History **Miss Teen USA, Miss America, Miss USA, Miss Universe and Miss World** are all held by black women (**5 queens pic**). I celebrate this historic moment and I wish nothing but God's best for each of these beautiful sisters. While this historic moment has received tons of press, one story from this moment in history impacted me the most. What's interesting about this particular story is it's not about the women who won, but rather a woman that lost. **Nyekachi Douglas (Miss Nigeria pic)** was a contestant in the Miss World Pageant. Miss World was won by Jamaica, but Miss Nigeria rejoiced like she won when they called Miss Jamaica's. **It went viral because she rejoiced over someone else's victory (video)**. The bible says heaven and the angels rejoice when someone goes from lost to being found (**DR pic**).



I'm rejoicing over YOU!

- Thug → **Theologian**
- Marriage: Rejection each other → **Reconciliation**
- Sleeping Around → **Seeking a Wife**
- Weed → **Worship**
- Corner of your Thoughts → **Counseling**
- Isolation → **Community**
- Abuse Victim → **Advocate**
- Abandoned Children → **Seeking a Relationship**
- Hiding your Sin → **Confessing your Sin**
- Not Perfect → **Progressing**

## Luke 15:8-10

8 "Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me,

because I have found the silver coin I lost! ' 10 I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

The coin was said to be worth a day's pay (direct deposit). The point is to show us that God places a value on our lives and that we should value others. Verse 7 and 10 both talk about the party that takes place in heaven over one soul and responds to the gospel. The last parable in Luke 15 brings it all together (Ratchet | Righteous | Grace). Earlier I asked if you've ever lost something and how any parent with one child or many would do everything within their power to find the child that was lost.

**When you're lost AND loved, people look for you!**

- Sign → Cross
- Search Committee → Church
- Reward → Jesus

Intercede for at least one person, today!

**You were Jesus' one, now who's yours?**