

THE PRODIGAL GOD

He Welcomes Sinners

Luke 15:1-10

Week 1 May 5, 2024

Pastor Mike Popovich

We are going to talk about God today and His graceful attitude towards us.

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. 8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:1-10 NIV

Hearing their muttering, Jesus tells three parables. A parable is an extended metaphor to illustrate a truth.

These parables are going to show how:

1. The grace of God changes the individuals life and,
2. Second, how God's grace forms us into a unique human community.

THE SHEEP

Jesus is referring to people as sheep. Now, you need to know that this is a well meant spiritual insult.

1. Like Sheep We Need To Be Rescued
2. Like Sheep We Thoroughly Need To Be Rescued

We humans are utterly lost in sin. We are saved only by grace.

THE SEARCH

The context for all three parables is found in the first two verses.

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:1-2 NIV

A community is a group of individuals who have bonded together by an intense experience.

In Ephesians 2, we are told “*1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...8 by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...20 Christ Jesus being the corner stone in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord...*”

But if you are saved by God's grace, in your joy you will never look down on others.

THE SHEPHERD

If you believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, then...

1. Commit to build a community with beautiful unified difference.
2. Sinners are free to admit their sin.

If you become a member of the flock, you are gentle. Salvation creates a community of sheep and it also creates a community of shepherds, as we minister with the gifts given to us to one another.