

Sunday - May 31, 2020

Lost and Found

Dr. Jim Cooley, First Baptist Birmingham

Today's Scripture: Luke 15: 4, 8, 11-14

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?"

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

ALL OF THE STORIES ARE ABOUT A PRECIOUS POSSESSION

- The first is about a shepherd and his flock
- The second was about a woman and her coins
- The third was about a man and his much-loved son
- In painting these pictures, Jesus wanted everybody to think about the things that are most important in their lives

IN EACH PARABLE, THAT PRECIOUS THING IS LOST

- It is a terrible feeling when something precious is lost
- "Lost" is one of the saddest words I can think of. It means that something that once meant all the world to you has disappeared

ALL THREE STORIES ARE ABOUT A PERSISTENT SEEKER

- The main character of each parable is a person who will not stop seeking until what was lost is found again
- In every story, the hero is the same; it is the person who refuses to give up on finding that which is precious
- Only those who care the most will keep on looking long after everyone else would have given up

EVERY STORY COMES TO THE SAME CONCLUSION

- “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.” *Luke 15:6*
- “Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!” *Luke 15:9*
- “Let us eat, and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; He was lost and is found.” *Luke 15:23-24*

THESE ARE POWERFUL STORIES, BUT THE MOST POWERFUL THING OF ALL IS THE REASON JESUS TOLD THEM

“And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’”
Luke 15:2

- Jesus was answering a critical question: How does God feel about lost people?
- In these parables, Jesus reveals the truth
 - Lost people are precious to Him
 - He yearns for them
 - He is actively working every day to find them and bring them back to Himself
 - He will not stop until He has brought as many as He can back home