

Week 7: Lost Coins and Wayward Sheep

Key Verses:

Luke 19

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 4

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Idea:

"This incident [Jesus and the Samaritan women in John 4] provides us with a profound insight into the missional approach of Jesus and its profound impact on sinners. He did not castigate and condemn. He did not need to. Most of the sinners he encountered already knew how unworthy they were. Instead, he visited them in their own world and loved them and spoke to them of the offer of God's grace. And it was this profound love of Jesus that often brought about such sincere and deep repentance, rather than stern words of condemnation." [pages 79-80]

From Rod's Message:

Rod asked us to consider: Our Mission, Our Heart and Our Prayer...

- Our Mission; and how we go about it.

"We are called to move beyond the confines of our often-cloistered religious world and actively seek those who do not yet know God's love. We are called to be like Jesus. Like the shepherd who left the comfort of the fold to go out into the wilderness to find the lost sheep. Like the Saviour who went into the homes of tax collectors and prostitutes and had dinner with them. Like the friend of sinners who mixed with outcasts and undesirables in order to bring to them the message of God's love and forgiveness. If the lost aren't coming to church, we need to take church to them." [page 75]

- Our Heart

Is our heart for the lost the same as Jesus' heart for the lost?

- Our Prayer

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST -We beg you to save!

Song/Prayer Lyrics: Heal my heart and make it clean. Open up my eyes to the things unseen. Show me how to love, like You have loved me. Break my heart for what breaks Yours. Everything I am. For Your Kingdom's cause. As I walk from earth into eternity.

Reflect:

- What do you think are some of the challenges that we face as Christians today in seeking to reach out to people who have strayed far from God? What barriers or prejudices within our own hearts might we have to overcome in order to show them the love of Jesus?
- Read John 4:1-26. Notice the complete absence of condemnation in Jesus' interaction with this woman. How would you describe Jesus' approach to her? What impresses you most about the way Jesus related to her? Why do you think she responded so positively to Jesus and was so excited as she went back to her village? What has she sensed?
- Read Luke 15:1-10. Why did Jesus tell these two parables? (See verses 1-2). Read verse 1 again. Why were so many tax collectors and sinners gathering around to hear Jesus? What was so appealing about him? What implications does this have for the church today as we re-evaluate our own message and missional methodology?
- As you reflect on these passages, what is the role of today's church in continuing Jesus' mission of seeking and saving the lost, and how can we ensure that our approach aligns with his message of grace and inclusion?
- Discuss specific examples from your own life or your community where you've seen the mission of Jesus to seek and save the lost being carried out. How can you and your fellow believers further embody this mission in your daily lives? How can you make better connections with those who don't yet know God's love?

Pray:

Pray for yourselves individually and for your whole church as you seek to embody the loving, missional heart of Jesus and put his principles into practice.