

Just One More

Luke 15

Context: verse 1-2 gives the reason that Jesus tells these stories or parables. Pharisees and scribes were disgusted by the fact that Jesus would associate with sinners like He did. They attempted to call Him out and catch Him in the act. Their intent was to arrest Him and stop Him, but instead He opened their eyes. Jesus told these 3 stories or parables using everyday illustrations that can still translate to today. Story of the most sheep (possession), the lost coin (money), story of the prodigal/lost son (family).

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost"

Crucial words: lost (v.4, 6, 8, 9, 24, 32), found (v. 4, 6, 8, 9, 24,32), repent (7,10, 18, 21) rejoice/joy (7, 10, 32).

1. Lost Sheep

A shepherd has 100 sheep, yet he goes after the one and leaves the 99. It doesn't matter how it got there he still goes after it.

We are all sinners, and no one is too far gone. Just one more sinner, like us, to bring back.

This is why you are here. This is why I am here I was once a lost sheep. We all have been lost sheep.

Just one more lost sheep

V. 7 One who repents is better than 99 righteous who don't

The Sheep had lost its way, the Shepherd found the sheep, laid on its shoulders, rejoices and invites others to rejoice with him. There is more joy for 1 sinner who repents than 99 righteous. What this tells me is this:

You are never too far gone. In fact, if you are in the room today and you feel like you are too far. God Himself says you are more valuable to Him than 99 self-righteous people.

2. Lost Coin

A woman loses a coin and cleans the house to look for it. When she finds it, she celebrates! She searched and searched but when she found it she invited her friends to see and take part. Lost and found.

This is why we are here as fellow lost coins to show people the love of Christ. And maybe just one more would be found. We are searching and telling, one day we will celebrate.

V. 10 Joy among the angels when one person repents

Just one more lost person found

The woman loses the coin, finds the coin and rejoices, then she invites others to rejoice with her in finding this lost coin. It's not about the value of the coin in this story but the fact that it was found.

We should never give up on helping the lost become found. It's always in the last place you look. If you have ever lost something you know its easy to give up on it. Don't give up on that lost coin in your life.

3. Lost Son

Famous story of the son who leaves and returns. Son wants the inheritance from his father to do whatever he wants. He goes and lives a lifestyle that we would not want our kids to do. As a parent this is your biggest nightmare. After hitting rock bottom he comes home. The father in the story runs to meet him, accepts him with love and celebrates his return. All of the servants and people of the house help the father

throw a big party for the son has returned. But the older brother is in the shadows muttering about the brother.

God the father as a character. Allows the son to take his inheritance, waits for the return of his son, runs to his son on his return, and corrects the older son.

V. 32 Dead and alive/ Lost and found

We all know someone who has walked away. Don't be the older brother but be the father. Better yet take the example of the Father (God) and act like that. Father is God, younger brother is the sinners/tax collectors, you have two choice: you could be the older brother or the rest of the party crowd when Just one more becomes part of the family. I can honestly say in my life I have been both.

I have said things like "It will wear off." "They didn't really mean it". "Do you know who they are." But I have also rejoiced and celebrated.

Story is open ended. No resolution in the story, so what would you do. Or who are you in the story. You can't be the father, for the sake of this sermon.

You can either be the younger son, the older son or the servants?

We don't have to beg God for just one more, but we ask God "Well what about me?" When He wants us to say "Well how do we get more?"

Just one more son returns to the father.

Lost son willingly leaves his family behind and pursues the wiles of the world. The lost son discovers how low and lost he is and returns to the father expecting condemnation but instead receives grace and rejoicing. Others rejoice with the father, but one stands alone angry and bitter.

The Father never gave up on waiting for the son to return. But the older son was bitter and angry about the grace offered to the lost son. Always be the son that returns not the other way around.

2 invitations:

You are never too far from God to accept Him today. Whatever you are running from or running to, God is bigger and better. Whatever it is will never be enough. By admitting you are a sinner (you've messed up and have gone the wrong direction), and believing in Jesus as the Son of God who came to seek and save that which was lost, you will be saved. Return to the Father He is standing with open arms waiting for your return to forgive and rejoice. Angels will join in the party. Wouldn't it be awesome if that the angels never stop the party because of the ministry and evangelism of this church?

Or you are a believer, but you have wandered. God is standing at the porch ready to welcome you home. Or maybe you have a lost coin, sheep or son in your life that you just need to pray for today. Someone in your life is close with you but far from God. Pray for them.

Today I pray for Just One More lost sheep, lost coin or lost son to be found and we will join with the angels in the party.