

Connection

Whats the most valuable thing you have ever lost ? Did you find it?

Content: You are of immense value to God, and He wants you to return to him. If you never encountered Him before, He wants you to turn to Him in faith.

Our prayer last week was this: “God help me to return to you when I get off track. It’s the best thing for me.” Going with our theme, if you are torn, God can re-thread you. It takes humility and expediency—God wants you back quickly.

There is immense joy when someone returns.

Happiness. That’s what you feel when you’ve found the thing you lost. In Luke 15: 3-24, Jesus tells the stories of three lost things: a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. The recovery of each is a cause of great joy... a joy that Jesus compares to the celebration in heaven when a single sinner repents and returns to God.

Read about the shepherd who lost one sheep in Luke 15:3-7. Like that shepherd, God pursues us relentlessly.

1. Think of a time you knew you were wandering away from God. What is it like to know that God is in pursuit of you at such a time?

Read about the woman who lost a valuable coin in Luke 15:8-10. Can you feel her panic, and then her joy? God made you to be His, and He doesn’t give up on getting you back.

2. What can you do to be sure you don’t wander away from God?

The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24 is about a man at the end of his rope. After many bad choices, he has only one choice left—to return to his father and beg for help. To the son’s shock, his father is overjoyed to have him back and launches into celebration.

3. Chances are you know someone who is at the end of their choices. What words can you use to tell that person that God is waiting to rejoice when they turn, or return to Him?

A world of understanding opens up to those who return.

In our culture, there's been a "great de-churching." Many have left the faith or never knew it. In 2 Corinthians 3: 12-18, Paul writes about a veil that covers people's hearts and dulls their minds. "But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away," Paul says. "Only in Christ is it taken away."

4. What can you do to introduce someone to Jesus, so that veil can be taken away?

There are two types of people.

When the veil is gone, "there is freedom," Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:17. All of us with the veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord.

The second type of person is still behind the veil and in need of Jesus. They need the first type to help them realize it's time to remove the veil.

5. Which type are you? Will you become a follower of Jesus? If you already are, who is close to you that needs your help to come to Christ?

Commitment

Take time to read over the parables of Luke 15 one more time. Prayerfully consider that God has pursued you, and your salvation in Jesus is the subject of boundless joy in heaven.

Challenge Assignment:

Reach out to someone you know is being chased down by our relentless God. Invite them to coffee or to church and pray that Jesus will remove the their veil.