

8/25/24

**Sermon – The Lost (Parables week 8)**

**Scripture – Luke 15**

**Main Message – The JOY of having that which is lost find its way back home again is indescribable and that should inspire you to share the Gospel**

**Read Luke Chapter 15**

In the Kingdom of Heaven there are NO IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES. Each of us at one point or another has been lost. What does it mean to be lost? In this context it means that there is no longer any relationship between them. This is a great sadness. Who wants to lose something that is precious? God does not want that. Look at all that our father in heaven has done to prevent that from happening.

Why did that sheep wander off? Because it is a sheep and not particularly bright. The grass was greener over there. There was a pretty flower to look at. How much jeopardy is a sheep in that is away from the protection of the herd and the shepherd? There are predators out there waiting for such an opportunity. We at one time or another were lost sheep. Some wander off for a brief season. Some for decades. Some forever. How many times was the forever one lost because no one went looking for them? Close your eyes now, and imagine seeing a shepherd carrying his lost sheep coming over the top of the hill right there on his shoulders and how happy he is to have found it. Its not 100<sup>th</sup> of something. It is the most important thing that the sheep has been found. Remember this when you are feeling sad. Our father and the angels were smiling the day we each came back into the fold.

The Coin is the same. It's not 10% of something. It became the most important thing because it also was lost. If the woman was not diligent about searching for the lost coin, it would not have been found.

The prodigal son, who wandered off makes the point in more detail. Now I've heard and read lots of things about this parable. People are more worried about the son who wasn't lost. He may have forgotten what is most important which is a message for us all, but the real story is the recovery of his lost brother. He wasn't just 50% of the father's sons. He was the one that had wandered off, enticed by the world and its pleasures. The Father waited, hoped, prayed and cried that his son would come home to him. Imagine the Father's joy and the desire to celebrate when he returned home of his own free will.

The sheep was in dire jeopardy. It had to be found and the shepherd went after it.

The coin could have been lost forever if it was not diligently sought after.

The son would never have returned home if he had not been taught the truth of God's kingdom.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us the hope we have when we lose a child to the world. When the world disappoints, and it always does, then we can have hope that they will return.

In these parables is JOY, HOPE, and LOVE that our Father in Heaven displays to us when we are no longer lost. He loves like no other can.

Praise be to Him for we once were lost, but now are found.