

How Lost is Lost? Luke:15

Introduction tax collectors and “Sinner”. Pharisees and teachers of the law Muttered(V.1-2) “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

His word for self-righteous people. Jesus refers to them as Lost.

******Four Ways of Being Lost (v.3-7)**

Lost through heedlessness of the sheep

Not a bad sheep. No worse than any of the other sheep. He loved the shepherd as much as any of the other sheep. Just drifted away—maybe looking for a better pasture.

People, busy, pressing life DRIFTING

******Lost through idleness—the coin (v.8:10)**

The coin was the same as before it was lost.

Silver did not change.

Being lost does not mean a person has no value or character. Out of circulation - out of service.

******* Lost through Willfulness**

The prodigal (v.12-24)

The younger son - He was lost because he was willing to be lost. Basically a good son.

Wanted his freedom. Thought of only the moment. Ignored his responsibilities.

*******Lost through haughtiness. The elder brother (v. 25-26) Conscientious and honest young man stayed home and still got lost. He was satisfied with himself. Intolerant toward others. Lost to the purpose of the father.**

If the prodigal had seen the brother before he saw his father, he would have returned to the pigpen.

******Four Consequences of being lost**

The sheep faced the consequences of helpless distress (v.4).

Wandered away from the shepherd--helpless

-The coin-uselessness – still had its value!

Image of emperor stamped on it. Useless

It still belongs to the owner, but was still of no value.

-The prodigal –degradation (v.16)

From well dressed to living in filth

-The elder brother - - joylessness not a happy person. crushed by sin.

******Fourfold quest for the lost**

--The quest of Christ (v.5) 90+9. 00 is a lot. But one was missing. Christ is not satisfied until He finds it. **Joy over finding it.**

--The quest of the Holy Spirit convicting and cleansing gifts for the church

--The quest of the Heavenly Father always takes the initiative. He first loved us God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

--The quest of the church (Luke 14:23)"As my father has sent me, so send I you"

Conclusion – However you may be lost -----

-- Remember there is a Father in heaven who loves you, a Savior who died for you, a Holy Spirit who seeks to bring you into the fold, and a church who welcomes you back.