



Lost & Found

5 Things We'll Look At Differently If We Love Like Jesus

Icebreaker:

Share a quick story of a time you lost something.

The Study:

As we seek to renew our vision as a church, the first priority is to look closely at Jesus to see what vision inspired his life. In Luke 15, Jesus is enjoying the company of people whom the religious leaders regarded as godless and sinful. When they rebuke Jesus, he rebukes them...by telling them three stories in succession about the value of looking for lost things.

When you read through the entire chapter, we learn that there are 5 things we'll look at differently when we see through the eyes of Jesus.

We'll Look At God Differently

1. Write out the first phrase of Romans 11:22. Then read Romans 2:4-5 aloud.

a. What two truths does the Bible teach about God?

b. Is God bipolar? How can God be both things at once? (If it helps, mull over this sentence: *Because God is Love, he is both merciful and just.*)

c. When push comes to shove, where does God lean? Read James 2:13. How have you experienced this?

We'll Look At Ourselves Differently

2. How did the religious leaders in Jesus' time look at themselves? Read Luke 18:9-14 to find out.

3. A lot of Christians – and probably each of us at times – struggle with spiritual pride, where we look down on those who don't go to church (*Like me! Look at me!*) or act decent (*Like me! Aren't I good! Aren't you lucky to have me on your side God?*) Why should we never go there in our thinking? Read Romans 3:23. Write it out but substitute the word "I" for "all". Discuss it.

4. Write out the first phrase of 1 Corinthians 15:10. If you're smarter, richer, stronger, healthier, happier than most people, why should you repeat this sentence over and over again.

We'll Look At Lost People Differently

5. The Pharisees thought of lost people as “unclean” (which biblically speaking they are), as deserving of judgment (ditto), as spiritual contaminants (1 Cor.15:33 says they can certainly be that). So where exactly were the Pharisees wrong in their thinking?

6. Jesus was known as a “friend of sinners”. See if you can come up with 5 different statements which complete this thought:

If I am a friend of sinners like Jesus, then I will...

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

7. in the sermon, Bear said, *“Somehow we must learn to look at lost people as potential, future members of our family.”*

With that in mind, read and discuss the following quote by C.S. Lewis.

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations.” ~ C.S. Lewis

We'll Look At Evangelism Differently

8. There's an great, old hymn called *“I Love To Tell The Story”*. Is that true for you? Or should the song instead be titled, *“I Kinda, Sorta Like To Tell The Story”*? Explain your answer.

9. Why do many struggle with the thought of sharing their faith?

10. What are some things we can do to fix this?

We'll Look At Sin & Holiness Differently

11. In the story of the Prodigal Son, the older son said to his father in Luke 15:29, *“Look! All these years I've been slaving for you!”* (NIV: which captures the Greek.) Meanwhile, he almost acts jealous of his younger brother who went off and sinned his head off. In other words he thinks: ***obedience = drudgery and sin = fun.***

Honestly, many of us sometimes think this way. What's defective about this?

12. Write out John 14:15. Why is it true to say: *One of the biggest problems when we sin is not that we love our sin too much. It's that we love God too little.*

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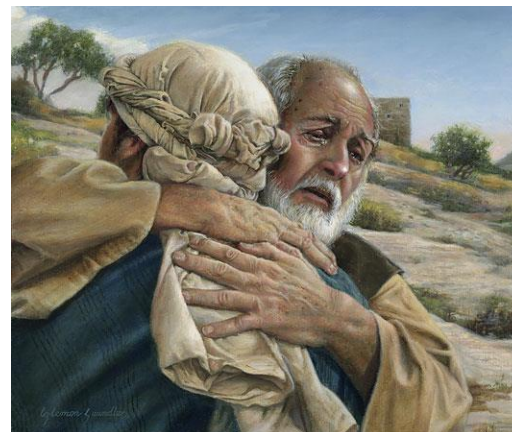
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