

Welcome Weekend
The Lost Parables
10/02/21
Newport News

Introduction

-October, both mine and Pastor Justin's work anniversary months! For him though, it's his 10 year!!!!

-(talk about this building being gifted to us...)

- Deuteronomy 29:5
- Café AC unit replacement - \$30k (original to addition)
- Water line to offices - \$15k (original to first building 1950's)
- We have \$40k in the building fund
- We plan to add another \$25k to that in January
- And we have emergency reserves as well...
- Let's raise at least \$10k this month...
- Then take not more than \$35k from the building fund...

-I'm pausing our series for tonight...(explain WW and next week DCL)

Opening

-Luke 15:1-32

- "notorious sinner"
- association meant accommodation in Jesus' day
- Jesus, "Your cultural norms are your problem!" (LOL)
- "participation brings transformation"
- incarnational ministry!!!!

-(tell story of my convo with Holy Spirit last two weeks over these verses)

-This is the question: *Have you ever read the lost parables in such a way where you identified with every aspect of the parable simultaneously?*

-I realized these parables aren't just for evangelism, they are for discipleship...how to use them as a discipleship lens...

-(Talk about The Way of Jesus)

The Lost Sheep

-Luke 15:3-7

- the lost sheep is the part of you that wanders...
- the 99 are the parts of you that stay true to what Jesus expects...
- the man is still Jesus but you should envision yourself with Him...
- his friends represent the assumption that you have meaningful Christian relationships
- celebration: sharing our faults and forgiveness
- (explain secretive vs. private vs. public)

-Questions to ask yourself?

- 1. Do I have secrets about myself I hope no one will ever know?**
- 2. Do different friend circles know me differently?**
- 3. What behaviors are incongruent with my moral value system?**

-Righteousness is not accounting based. God's acceptance of us is unconditional. His approval of us is another matter and it is not a debit/credit based system!

-Matthew 3:17 / Matthew 17:5

-Steps

- 1. Ask Jesus to help you identify everything in your life that is "lost."**
- 2. Ask Jesus to help you find the courage to bring that area of your life in compliance with your moral value system.**
- 3. Ask Jesus to help you identify a few friends you can confide in.**

The Lost Coin

-Luke 15:8-10 (explain how a coin can't stray, it is neglected)

- The lost coin is the part of you that is neglected...
- (sheep is sin of commission and coin is sin of omission)
- the nine remaining coins are all the things are doing right
- (use Praxis book...Pathways!)
- the woman is each of us
- again we see everyone is in community!
- And again there is a celebration...sharing faults and forgiveness!

-Questions to ask yourself?

1. Do I have a “most” is good enough attitude?
2. Have I done the red/yellow/green Pathways assessment recently?
3. Do I see the good I ought to do as sin that needs repentance?

-Steps

1. Do the Pathways assessment.
2. Ask Jesus to help you see what is missing by way of omission.
3. Ask Jesus to help you identify a few friends you can confide in.

The Lost Son

-Luke 15:11-32 (just reference, much more elaborate parable...)

-Did you know “prodigal” does not mean lost or wandering? It actually means wastefully extravagant. (ref Keller book The Prodigal God)

-I believe God is asking us with this parable, “How are you using your capacity for wasteful extravagance?”

1. How are you the younger son: self-serving extravagance?
 - a. Spending on yourself, miserly in giving
 - b. Gracious with yourself, quick to write others off
2. How are you the older brother: excessively callous toward someone else’s sorrow and excessively insensitive toward their joy?
3. How are you the father: extravagant with hope or always despairing?

Band

-Steps

1. Identify areas of your life that are excessive (good or bad)?
2. Ask Jesus to help you identify a few friends...
3. With those few friends and Jesus, which excesses need to stay and which ones need to go?

-All three parables end in repentance, community, and celebration!!!!