

Easter Series: Death Could Not Hold Him
Finding the Lost
Luke 15:1-32

Our stuff has value to us. That value might not even have a dollar amount assigned to it. Instead, it might have sentimental value or the possibility of a future need attached to it. Try as we might to keep things organized and in place so that we can readily and easily access those things of value, we can still lose them. Sometimes they are misplaced. Sometimes we just forget where we put them. In Luke 15, Jesus shares three parables about the lengths He will go to find those who are lost.

1. God relentlessly pursues us because we are lost.
2. God passionately rejoices over us when we are found.
3. God graciously reminds us that repentance is necessary.

If a sinner's repentance exposes the hardness of the self-righteous heart, then it should be a source of joy for the saint's heart. The first sign of repentance requires a party! It is for the joy of the church to see lost people found, to see sinners come to faith and repent. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to seek and to save everyone from tax collectors to self-righteous Pharisees. He came to seek and to save me. He came to seek and to save you.

Reflection

Which of the three truths expressed in these parables grabs your attention? Which, if any, challenge you in your walk with Christ? What do you remember about the first time you came to Christ with a heart of repentance? When was the last time you came to Christ with a heart of repentance? What needs evaluation in your life? Are there attitudes or actions where repentance might be necessary? Take a moment to consider where you might be standing at the end of the parables. Are you inside in the celebration or do you more often than not find yourself outside wondering why God has blessed someone else while seemingly ignoring you? Consider the names of the people you know who need to hear the gospel and ask God to search for them through you.