

Sunday Message Meditation

December 7, 2014

Message Text: Luke 15

Message Meditation:

1. The parable of the lost sheep and lost coin conclude with the message that God is filled with joy when one sinner repents.
 - a. Lost sheep and coins don't repent. If they are to be recovered at all, they must be searched for and found.
 - b. God, in Jesus, is seeking and saving lost people, so He will associate with the worst kind of criminal you know, and the most religiously pious person you know, because both are lost and need to be recovered.
2. In the first parable – the shepherd loses 1 out of 100 sheep.
In the second parable – the woman loses 1 out of 10 coins.
In the third parable – the father loses both sons. By the end of the parable only one has been found.
3. The younger brother is the worst son imaginable. When he repents and comes home the father is filled with joy at his return. The father welcomes the son with great extravagance and fully restores him as a son in the family. God is really happy when sinners repent!

The older brother reveals his hatred for his brother and his father by becoming angry and refusing to join in the celebration of the younger brother's return from the dead. This is a grief to the Father who loves him as well.

The father loves the sons, and in goodness he pursues the older son to bring him to repentance and restore him to the family. The parable concludes open ended.

God really loves sinners and extravagantly welcomes them when they repent and depend fully upon His grace for their salvation.

4. Some questions for additional thought:
 - a. How would the younger brother's life be changed as a result of his full restoration to the family?
 - b. What would bring about his success in conforming to the values of the father and the family that he has been restored to?
 - c. What barrier(s) stand in the way of the older brother's repentance?
 - d. How would his repentance influence his attitude toward his father and his younger brother?
 - e. Where do you place yourself in the parable – a rebellious son, a religious son, or a repentant son?