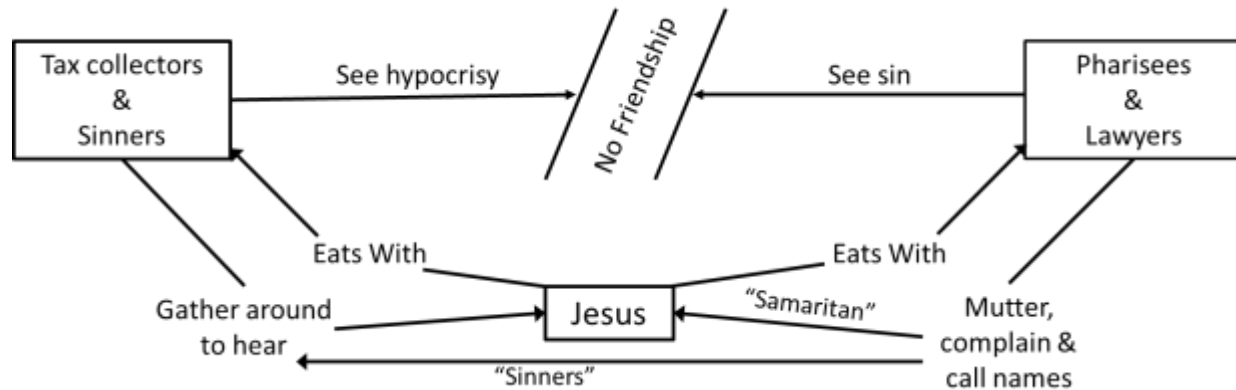


Message Meditation

November 30, 2014

Text: **Luke 15:1-10**

The context of the parables: (v.1-3)



- Jesus is on a mission to **seek and save the lost**. (Lk. 19:10)
- He will disregard the social boundaries typically defined by table fellowship, and He will eat with both the renowned sinners and the religious sinners.
- The renowned sinners gather around Jesus to hear Him, because He cares for them. The religious sinners distance themselves from Jesus, because they don't care for Him. (After all, He eats with "sinners.")

The parables:

- The shepherd and the lost sheep (v.3-7)
- The woman and the lost coin (v.4-10)

The point of the parables:

- The joy we have in recovering what we have lost is less than the joy God has when sinners repent. (v.7, 10)
- The two parables don't illustrate repentance, but do illustrate God's initiative in seeking the lost, and His joy when the lost are found.
- God, in Jesus, is seeking and saving lost people. It is His pleasure to save sinners.

Meditation for application:

- What is your attitude toward God's initiative in promising and providing a rescue for lost sinners (not just rescuing wandering sheep and lost coins, but rebellious enemies)?

God loves His glory. God loves sinners who have not cared for His glory. The seeming irresolvable tension is resolved in Jesus. Jesus has upheld God's glory as He was punished for sin (demonstrating God's righteousness), and Jesus has displayed and given God's love for sinners through the sacrifice of Himself on their behalf. Jesus is the gospel!