



## SEARCH AND RESCUE

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Luke 15:1-31, 19:10**

#### Introduction:

Luke 15 has three parables about Jesus' priority to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10):

- i. The Lost Sheep
  - The lost sheep represents 1% of the flock
  - Those who wander away
- ii. The Lost Coin
  - The lost coin represents 10% of the purse
  - Those who are displaced
- iii. The Lost Son
  - The lost son represents 50% of the sons.
  - Those who are lost through rebellion.

Big Idea: Everyone matters. People have great value to God. Everyone has free will. Restoration to God is treasured and celebrated.

#### 1. The loss was significant...so the search became intense:

In the cases of the lost coin and lost sheep there was...

- a) A compassionate search

- b) A comprehensive search

- c) A courageous search

Romans 5:6-11 - You matter! You're created in God's image! You're not inconsequential! You're significant! You're irreplaceable! God has a plan for your life!

#### 2. Curious Proposition: If the father valued the prodigal son so much, why wasn't there an intense search?

- a) To teach people about God's sovereignty and humankind's free will.
- b) To teach people about the devastation of *both* sons' rebellions.

Until rebellion is resolved, the Father's search and rescue plan is obstructed.

#### 3. Search and rescue for the "rebellious" requires...

- a) The Exhaustion of Worldly Living, Carnal thinking.
- b) The Depletion of Self-Sufficiency, & Selfishness.
- c) Recognition of ones Spiritual Condition.
- d) Older brothers (and sisters) must be willing to engage a search and rescue mission.

#### Conclusion:

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Have you ever lost something valuable? How far did you go to try and find it? What does your story of searching for something you lost tell you about the heart of God as he searches for us?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read the three parables in Luke 15 (v. 1-31). What stands out to you about these parables? What do they tell us about God? What do they tell us about ourselves?
2. In Tim Keller's book, *Prodigal God*, he highlights the fact that both brothers in the story of the Prodigal Son have been alienated from the father. The younger son was alienated by rebellion, and a sinful lifestyle. The older brother was alienated through moralism and entitlement. Both sons were trying to control the father's goods, and neither loved the father. The younger sons represents all those who have the tendency to rebel against God. The older brother represents all those who have a tendency to use religion and legalism to manipulate God. All of us tend to lean one way or the other. Which way is your tendency? How can you combat it? How can we help rebels? How can we help legalists?
3. Read Romans 5:6-11. What stands out to you in this passage? What does it mean to be God's enemy? What does it mean to be reconciled to someone? To God? What's our role in reconciliation with God? Do you think the church is good at "rejoicing"? How can we get better?

### Application:

1. God calls us to be part of the search and rescue missions (like the older brother who *should have* sought out the younger). Who can you seek out this week to attempt to bring them back to God? How will you do it?

### Prayer:

1. Pray for the lost to be reconciled to God. Pray for the church to participate in God's rescue mission.
2. Other requests
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