**LUKE: Investigating the Real Jesus**

**God’s Search for Sinners, Luke 15:1-10**

Weekend of 5.18-19.24

**GREAT LADIES’ NIGHT OUT- thank Kim’s team, Clark’s team.** WELCOME 11 new members, pray for them.

**THE SEARCH- One day I was looking all over the house for my glasses- angry, irritated- Kim asked, “You mean the ones on your face?!”** This happens from time to time- I lose something and need Kim to step in and find it. **Superpower? I don’t know/care, I’m just glad she’s around to find the things that are lost.** Turn to Luke 15, pg. 1042, where Jesus tells a couple of parables that illustrate God’s search for those lost in sin. **The parables illustrate the VALUE God places on sinners and His DETERMINATION in searching/finding them.** Before relating the parables Luke tells us who the audience is. **READ Luke 15:1-2 Let’s take a look at the audience because in here is our 1st/2 SPIRITUAL TRUTHS for today.** 1st we have the TC/S.  **Who are they?**

**God’s Search for Sinners, Luke 15:1-10**

1. **THE AUDIENCE, Luke 15:1-2**
2. **Tax Collectors and Sinners- Religious Outcasts/Rejected by the religious class.**
3. Those who know they don’t measure up to the religious leaders’ standards/they don’t need anyone to tell them, they are fully aware of what the RLs/religious people think of them.
4. Tax collectors- viewed by others as anti-Israel, traitors- they worked for Rome, stole from their fellow citizens.
5. R Kent Hughes, Luke: That You May Know the Truth St. Chrysostom preached, "The tax-gatherer is the personification of licensed violence, of legal sin, of specious greed" (Hom. 2.4)…. They were loathed in every way. Synagogues would not accept their alms. Their testimony was not received in Jewish courts. They were held to be worse than the heathen.
6. Interesting, one of Jesus’ 12 disciples Matthew/Levi, was a tax collector before giving it up to follow Jesus.
7. Sinners- those who did not live up to the Pharisees’ version of the Law of Moses.
8. Jews and of course all non-Jews/Gentiles were considered sinners.
9. The RLs would not interact with them/wouldn’t even want their robe to brush against them for fear they’d become unclean and sinners as well.
10. **Pharisees and scribes- arrogant/hypocritical religious leaders**
11. They taught that only those who kept their man-made laws were right with God.
12. This is what we call legalism- you have to do certain religious rituals/keep traditions/do good things to earn God’s approval.
13. Legalism puts up hoops to jump through to earn/gain God’s forgiveness/salvation.
14. Legalism says you have to clean up your life before God will forgive/save you.
15. **PROBLEM-** It’s not what God says, Romans 5:8
16. It’s wrong because only God forgives through faith in Jesus.

1. What legalism is NOT
2. Legalism is not the commands Jesus gives His disciples to live by.
3. The “Woke” want to teach that Jesus accepts all lifestyles/live as you want- **NOT TRUE**.
4. **WHAT IS TRUE:** Jesus welcomed every sinner to hear His teaching.
5. **TRUE:** God will forgive every kind of sin through faith in Jesus.
6. **ALSO TRUE:** Jesus commands His disciples, those who’ve repented/turned from their previous lifestyle to live a life of repentance- continually turning from their lifestyle to live His lifestyle to become more and more like Jesus.
7. It’s also not expectations for members/volunteers/those wanting to dedicate their children.
8. Legalism is only in reference to salvation.
9. These expectations are not requirements for salvation, not making a judgment on someone’s salvation.
10. We’re only trying to ensure that believers who are on board with our philosophy of ministry are members/volunteers/making a vow to God by dedicating their children.
11. **Spiritual Truth 1- “Legalism/legalists keep people from God, but love/disciples, because we respond like Jesus, draw people to Him.”**
12. **THE PARTS**
13. **The Man/Woman = God**
14. Jesus is not teaching God is female/has a female expression.
15. Jesus is showing God’s love/concern for sinners.
16. He’s also showing how valuable sinners are to God.
17. God is personally out searching for those who are lost spiritually.
18. **Lost Sheep/Coin**
19. Specifically- the TC/S who repent of their sin and turn to God for the forgiveness of their sin.
20. Figuratively- anyone who repents and turns to God for the forgiveness of their sin.
21. Not all who are lost will be found because they won’t repent when God shows up.
22. **99 Sheep/9 Coins**
23. Specifically- the RLs who don’t think they have any sin of which to repent/they’re good as they are.
24. Figuratively- anyone who thinks they don’t need to repent of their sin for God’s forgiveness/they think they’re good as they are.
25. God can’t help those who don’t think they need help.
26. **The Rejoicing When the Lost Is Found**
27. More joy over one who repents than the righteous who don’t need to repent.
28. “righteous”- those who THINK they’re righteous.
29. God has no joy in those who think they make themselves right with Him.
30. **THE POINT-** Spiritual Truth #2 God actively seeks for the spiritually lost until He finds them.
31. **The Spiritually Lost Are Separated from God**
32. We’re separated because of our sin, Romans 3:23
33. Glory of God- glory can be defined as what He reveals about Himself.
34. He’s revealed to us that He sinless- He has no sin and does not allow sin in His presence.
35. He’s revealed to us that He is a just judge who must punish those who break His laws/commands.
36. We on the other hand are sin-filled- totally filled/born with sin, so we can’t be in His presence, and if left in that condition He will sentence us to an eternity in hell when we die physically.
37. **The Spiritually Lost Are Valuable to God**
38. We’re so valuable to Him, He did what it took to find us/deal with our sin.
39. In the parables He searched for the sheep/coin; in real life God the Son died for us, that’s how valuable you/I are to Him, **Romans 5:8**
40. Jesus took YOUR eternal judgment meant for us on Himself.
41. **The Spiritually Lost Are Found by God**
42. The sheep/coin didn’t have a choice, they were just picked up; we do have a choice, but God has to get our attention/give us understanding first. **Look at Romans 3:10-12**
43. Without God giving us understanding we’d remain lost/not recognize Him when He shows up, Romans 3:10-12
44. When you understand your sin separates you from God/you deserve hell, and you trust Him when He says Jesus took your judgment for you and let God pick you up/forgive you, then you are truly found by God.
45. That’s what Jesus means by “when one sinner repents”- metanoeo; turn from trying to save yourself to letting God save you through faith in Jesus.
46. The sheep didn’t run off, it let the man pick him up.
47. You have to stop running away and turn to Him.
48. **The Spiritually Found Bring Joy to Heaven**
49. The most valuable thing God ever created- YOU, was lost to Him, but when you turn to Him so He can forgive you and restore His relationship with you. THAT’S THE BEST THING EVER!!
50. We’ve started some parties in heaven, especially since January!

**TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Spiritual Truth #1- Legalism/legalists keep people from God, love/disciples draw people to Him. Are there people in your life who you determine are undeserving of the Gospel?** Are your attitudes/responses keeping people from God or are they drawing people to Him?
2. **Spiritual Truth #2- God actively searches for the spiritually lost until He finds them.** God uses us, His disciples, to give others His understanding. **Who is one person you need to pray for in hopes of giving them understanding of who God is/what He’s done for them?**

**It’s incredible to think that despite our sin God still desires a relationship with us and died to make it happen.** It’s humbling to know that He wants us to join Him in bringing that understanding to those in our lives who are lost.

**PODCAST: God’s Search for Sinners,** Luke 15:1-10; Ephesians 2:4; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 3:10-12