

# LOST

JESUS CAME TO FIND US  
NOT JUST TO FIX US

SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY - 10AM

“THE RELENTLESS MISSIONAL  
HEART OF GOD”

DELIBERATE - DISRUPTIVE - DEVOTED



The New Testament has many stories where Jesus disrupted His plans in order to bring life to spiritually lost people (Mark 4v35-41; Mark 5). One of my favourite stories is the conversation He had with a Samaritan woman whose life had been impacted by multiple relationships. She was looking for the right thing but in all the wrong places. These stories remind us that if we desire to be led by the Spirit He will disrupt our plans causing us to live beyond the comforts and routines we have established in our lives. Walking in step with the Spirit is so much more than just an infilling, it's an outpouring of love through our lives to others as led by God (John 4v4-26). Jesus, seeking to help His accusers and disciples understand the relentless missional heart of God, tells three parables in chapter 15 of the Luke Gospel. A parable is a small story which explains a big idea. All three stories are interrelated, and Jesus chooses to use them to convey one full and profound message, God's heart for lost people. Jesus appears to be more concerned about connecting with people who live outside of relationship with God than His own reputation. Each story although one reveals something beautiful about the father's heart for those who are lost.

Please take a little time to read the whole chapter asking the Holy Spirit to breathe fresh light on a familiar passage and ignite your heart to lead others into life.

### **God is deliberate in His pursuit of those who are lost**

*<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup>and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup>I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. (Luke 15v1-7)*

The lost sheep didn't intentionally get lost - it munched its way to lostness. Our heavenly Father understands that people are hungry for life, hungry for something new, something fresh, hungry for satisfaction and in pursuit of this, just like the lost sheep they munch their way into lostness. The story reveals the deliberate priority given to those who are lost. The diligence of the shepherd until the sheep is found. The desire to make it as easy as possible for the sheep to return home (carried on his shoulders). The delight finding the sheep brings to the shepherd's heart. The desire to share this joy with others and the eternal celebration which erupts in the heavens when someone who is lost comes home to God.

### **DISRUPTIVE**

*<sup>8</sup>"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins [a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup>In the same way, I*

*tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15v8-10)*

Just like the woman in the story is turning the house upside down and inside out searching for the lost coin God turns things upside down and inside out to find what is precious to Him. The scene is one of intentional disruption for the purpose of finding what is missing. Everything within the house is subject to being repositioned until the owner’s treasure is found. In the same way we must risk upsetting our routines to reset priorities. Many of the big fights in the book of Acts are around the tensions the Church faced as she kept adjusting to the flow of the Spirit and the inclusive and expansive heart of God.

## **DEVOTED**

*<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them.’<sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants. <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. <sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come, he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’<sup>31</sup> My son, the father said, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’” (Luke 15v11-32)*

This final part of the Trilogy drives home the message by making it about a son. All three stories end in emphatic celebration and by no means devalue the 99 sheep who are safe, the 9 coins the widow already had, or the son who stayed home. The motivation for the searching is the value of each one and the revelation of God's heart in response to those who are lost.

**Monday;** Thank the Father for His relentless missional heart towards you and those you know who are living outside of relationship with Him.

**Tuesday;** Pray that God will help you be more deliberate in pursuing relationships with lost people. Our One+One cards are designed to make us like the Father in this regard - always seeking to bring life to others.

**Wednesday;** We are often comfortable with the patterns of our lives, perhaps so much so being lead by the Spirit who often will disrupt our plans becomes difficult. The whole house was turned upside down and inside out to find the precious coin. Ask the Lord to help you to be obedient and compliant to any disruption He may create to help you lead others into life.

**Thursday;** Thank the Father for His relentless devotion to waiting and watching for His many sons to return. He is totally devoted to anyone who has distanced themselves from His house and His heart. Pray for those whom you believe need a home coming with God.

**Friday;** Thank the Lord for His promise that in the last days he will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. The pouring out of His Spirit is a restoration of identity and authority in the Church but also a commissioning of the church to greater exploits. Prophecy and proclaim that this day has, and will continue, to come. The Spirit and the Bride say Come Lord Jesus.