**Luke 15: A Father’s Love can bring you home**

**Review: Takeaways from last week – Acts 2:38**

* **The Spirit is only received “late”, or after one believes, 3 times in the NT: Acts 2:38, Acts 8, and 19:1-6.**
* **It is never received “late” by Jews outside the Palestinian area nor is it ever that way to Gentiles. No Gentile ever receive the Spirit late.**
* **The “local” Jews had been exposed to the preaching ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus. They had great privilege and also delivered Jesus to death.** 
  + **They were held accountable for their dismissal of their message and Jesus’ death, which they willingly took on (Mt. 27:21-25; Acts 2:36)**
  + **They were required to repent and be baptized**
  + **This message is never given to Jews elsewhere nor to Gentiles**
  + **The norm for the reception of the Spirit, forgiveness, and entrance into the Body of Christ is given later (Acts 13:38-39; 1 Cor. 12:13 and Rom. 8:9)**
  + **The reception of the Spirit admitted one into the Church, the Body of Christ (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13), When the local Jews repented and were baptized, they received the Spirit and were admitted into the Body of Christ.**
  + **This is consistent with the message of John, according to Jesus (Jn. 1:33; Acts 1:5).**

**Context: Lk. 14:25-33: NOT, “I won’t let you”, but “cannot”**

**Nothing should interfere with our devotion to Christ**

* **Goodbye to others**
* **Goodbye to self**
* **Goodbye to possessions**

**Summary of 14:25-33: How can a disciple who loses his spiritual “flavor” get it back again? By repentance! Chapter 15 = *Seeing people as God sees them*.**

**Luke 15: A Father’s Love**

**15:1-2 – Be like Jesus. Spend enough time with sinners to ruin your reputation with religious people. Be careful! 1 Cor. 15:33 Missionary or mission field?**

**The Lost Sheep – 15:3-7**

* + **“My sheep,” It was the Shepherd’s sheep**
  + **His search shows His love**
  + **When the sheep returns, the Shepherd rejoices with friends**
  + **Great joy in heaven**
  + **“Need no repentance” means just that**

**The Lost Coin – 15:8-10**

* **It was her coin**
* **Careful search even amid the filth in dark places**
* **Once again, collective joy. It was her coin**
* **Once again, collective joy; “in the presence of the angels of God”. God has joy**
* **Angels notice us: Eph. 3:10; 1 Cor. 11:10; Heb. 1:14; 12:22-23; Lk 24:6-7**

**The Lost Son 15:11-24**

* **The Father was his father, the son his son 11, 17-19, 24**
* **What a waste! 13 He’s back. But never forget this: The money is gone!**
* **The unworthiness of grace 19**
* **Lost opportunities with his father**
* **He came home! Experiencing life again!**
* **When we walk away from God and come back, we experience forgiveness and fellowship.**
* **But there are many things that won’t be regained.**

**The Self-righteous Brother 15:25-32**

* + **Lacked his father’s perspective 28**
  + **Overestimated his own service 29**
  + **Failed to see his brother properly 30**
  + **Critical of his Father 29-30**
  + **Needs to listen to his father 31-32**

**So, about us…**

* **The sheep was his sheep, the coin was her coin, the son was his son.**
* **Believers can be “lost” to us. They can be “tax collectors and sinners”.**
* **Sometimes the most powerful people for Christ are those who have failed and returned, just as John Mark.**
* **Even born-again people fall into sin. They lose fellowship. They can lose reward. But they never lose their identity in Christ.**
* **In fact, that is one of the things most likely to bring them “home” to their Father! James 1:23-24; 2 Pet. 1:8-9**
* **Another key tool is the kindness of God - Rom. 2:4; Luke 15:1-2**
* **God will fellowship with you again! Jas. 4:8; 1 John 1:9**

**How to raise a Prodigal Son**

* **Never pray with them, except at meal time,**
* **Cuss in front of them,**
* **Drink excessively in front of them,**
* **Lie to others in front of them,**
* **Shout at your spouse,**
* **Don’t forgive,**
* **Yell when kids annoy you,**
* **Lay down such strict rules so your kids can’t wait to get out of the home,**
* **Be sure to ignore what you are taught at church so your kids will learn that if it’s not important to you, it’s not important to them.**

**Bringing them back**

* **If they do drift away, dedicate yourself to being what you should have been years ago and**
* **dedicate yourself to praying for them every day of their lives.**
* **They will return.**
* **Then, you and God can have a party.**
* **This story begins with eating, ends with eating; Table fellowship**
* **In the first two stories, the pursuit showed the love. In this story, he lets his son go and have free will. Sometimes, it’s more loving to “let them go.” Often, people just need to come to their senses.**
* **God is for us! Rom. 8:31; Eph. 3:14-21; 1 Jn. 1:7-9**