

June 9, 2019

Speaker: Erwin Klingenberg **Series:** Stand Alone Message **Passage:** Luke 15:1-32

Community Group Questions: "The Lost Matter"

Read Luke 15:1-32 aloud as a group, and then work through the following questions.

1. In this text, we read that tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus. Even though Jesus preached some very hard truths, why do you think that people still felt like they mattered to him? How do we as Christians convey the impression that the lost do not matter to us? How can we convey that they do matter to us and to Jesus?
2. All three parables were told to the scribes and pharisees because they were grumbling about Jesus receiving sinners. Why do you think that bothered them so much? Have you ever been judgmental about, or bothered by people who reach out to the lost? (Be honest) Why?
3. Verses 3-7 tell the parable of the lost sheep. In this parable, one sheep goes astray from the other ninety-nine. Although it is only 1 out of 100, the owner still considers it valuable enough to search for. Why do you think it is so hard for us to see certain kinds of lost people as being valuable to God? Suicide rates are rising faster than ever before. Depression and feelings of isolation are also on the rise in our society. Why do you think that is (from a spiritual standpoint)? How can we demonstrate to the people around us that they are valuable to God?
4. Verses 8-10 describe a woman diligently searching for a lost coin. If we are serious about reaching the lost for Christ, what will it cost us, and how much are we willing to sacrifice in the process? Have you ever cried over a lost person? Share with the group.
5. The last parable is the parable of the prodigal son. Neither of the sons in the parable had a healthy relationship with their father. The younger son abandoned his home to live a life of recklessness and paid the price. The older son's loyalty and obedience seem to be based in a sense of servitude or duty to his father, rather than a loving relationship (kind of like the pharisees and, unfortunately, many professing Christians). How does the father show love to both his sons? Do we need to be reminded that although obedience to Christ is vital, there is more to being a Christian than serving God or "being good?" (C.f. Luke 10:38-42). How can our being secure in the love of God help us show God's love to others?

Prayer suggestion: Share with each other how you can show others that they matter to you and to God, and then pray for one another along these lines.