

COME TO PAPA: ENCOUNTERING THE FATHER THAT JESUS KNEW

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SESSION 3: THE SEARCHING FATHER

Luke 15:1-7 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. (2) And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." (3) So He spoke this parable to them, saying: (4) "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? (5) And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. (6) And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' (7) I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus came to reveal to us the nature of His Father's heart, to live out in the flesh the character and will of His Father. The parables of Luke 15 give us amazing insight into the passion that God feels for weak and broken people.

I. THE SETTING OF THE TEACHING

A. Matthew's courtyard?

Mark 2:15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.

1. Dinner party with tax-collectors and sinners

Matthew 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

2. Pharisees and Teachers around the periphery

B. Jesus came in the Name of the Father – His purpose was to reveal the glory of the Father, who searches out the broken and invites them into His presence. The ones who recognize their own poverty and brokenness are the ones He embraces.

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

C. Jesus' point with the scribes and Pharisees was to address the issue of the role of the Shepherd

Luke 15:4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

II. HOW SHEEP GET LOST

A. It is their nature to wander

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1. No common sense – blind grazing, unconsidered mimicking
2. Need for God's "sheep dogs," Goodness and Mercy

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

B. Leaders without a Shepherd's heart – Ezekiel 34:1-6

Ezekiel 34:1-6 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (2) "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? (3) You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. (4) The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. (5) So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. (6) My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

1. False shepherds are motivated by personal agenda to feed and clothe themselves
2. Therefore, they treat the flock with cruelty
 - a. Not strengthened the weak
 - b. Not healed the sick
 - c. Not bound up the broken

- d. Not brought back those driven away
- e. Not sought the lost

III. THE MOTIVATION OF JESUS, THE TRUE SHEPHERD

A. The reclamation of a people for His own purposes – the Bride of Christ

- 1. Determined that not one should be lost

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- 2. Satisfaction of the desires of Jesus

Isaiah 53:10-11 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. (11) He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

B. To Express the Father's Heart, His own Son became the Lamb

- 1. Fulfillment of prophetic pictures

- a. Passover

Exodus 12:13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

1Co 5:7 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

- b. The Sin Offering and the Scapegoat

Leviticus 16:8-10 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat. (9) And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. (10) But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.

- (1) The Lamb that was slain

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- (2) His Blood applied

Luke 22:20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

- (3) Unleavened bread

Luke 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

- c. Atonement – Leviticus 16:29-34

Leviticus 16:32-33 And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; (33) then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

The Priest stands in the Father's place to make atonement:

- (1) For the Holy Sanctuary
- (2) For the tabernacle and altar
- (3) For the priests and the people

2. One who bore the sins of all

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

WHAT NIGHT IS LIKE THIS NIGHT?

What night is like this night
when my own heart is wrenched in deepest pain?
My Son, my joy is calling for my aid,
and I am held at bay by ageless plan
unfolding there in garden dim,
where He is cast upon the stone.

From age to age my full delight
has been poured out on this eternal Youth,
His form my very Word,
His glory my own Light.
I danced to bring Him forth, from evermore my constant Song
Who thrilled with me at wondrous plan to win a Bride,
undeterred by purchase price – His blood, His life.

What death is like this death
as Light of life, by darkness' pow'r not once obscured,
submits His radiance to Death's designs
and makes the wickeds' grave His own;
as perfect love, not once disturbed, is interrupted there
by weight of stagg'ring pain,
and counts it joy.

And I am bound by my own joy to leave Him there,
His terror mounting as He prays;
His sweat and blood flow mingling down
as struggling to die He grips the cup.
So I will count Him guilty now,
and turn my face that Death might have his way,
betraying kiss His next reward.

What night is like this night?