

December 5, 2010
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Monday

Luke 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him.

Here is a place where God is encouraging you to be like a tax collector and a sinner, for these came "to listen" to Him. Too often the longer we walk with Jesus the more we become dull to His voice of instruction and conviction. The truth is that we are a 'sinner,' even though saved by His grace. The need is always present for you to have a listening ear and a tender heart. What is God saying to you? How is His word instructing you today? Go before Him with an eager heart to hear Him.

Tuesday

Luke 15:2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

It is the scandal of the cross! Jesus came to meet, greet, and save sinners. Perfect people need no salvation. (Of course there are no perfect people.) The image of the 'elder brother' in the parable of the Prodigal Son is directed directly at 'church people.' We begin to think that somehow we deserve Him and others do not. This Christmas season find ways to reach out to other 'sinners' in need of a Savior. Neither condemn them nor expect that they will act as saints. Instead embrace them as God desires to embrace them. In that way we too are to receive sinners.

Wednesday

Luke 15:5 "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

Look at the mercy and compassion of the Lord. "When he has found the lost sheep, he lays it on his shoulders." Is there a more compassionate picture ever painted? Jesus is always looking for the lost one. When He finds us, we are often scared, broken of limb, hungry, cold, and alone. He may instruct and correct us later. But at the moment when He finds us, He graciously places us upon His shoulders and brings us home. Have you been lost to the Savior's plan and purpose? Have you been away from the flock and open to the dangers of exposure? Let Jesus take you upon His shoulders and bring you back to the fold.

Thursday

Luke 15:4-5 ...has lost one of them, ... When he has found it...

Lost! Lost! It is a perfect definition of a man or woman without Christ. Wandering, often broken, hungry, and alone. That is the way Jesus found you. That is the way Jesus found me. We must remember that no matter how well dressed, financially prosperous, or well educated a person may be, without Jesus, he is lost. As well, no matter how broken, worn down, or dirty a man/woman may be, Jesus is looking and finding the lost. Remember and rejoice that Jesus found you. Never forget that you were as others still are--lost. Become an assistant of the Lord in seeking others who are lost that Jesus may save them.

Friday

Luke 15:6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

Here is a test. What brings you to a place of rejoicing? In your personal life or even in the work of the church, what makes you rejoice? Jesus has given us no greater task, privilege, or responsibility than to bring others to salvation. Locally and across the globe partnering in the salvation of others is the great calling of every believer. How? Have you prayed about going on one of the many mission trips that are put together through FBC? Have you already given to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Mission? Are you giving a tithe of your income so that your church can continue to reach out across the globe? Will you leave a financial legacy for the salvation of the lost? Give and Go! That is the plan for eternal rejoicing.