

## Welcome Home Sunday #2

Sermon Road Map  
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Luke 15:1-10  
October 27, 2019

### Welcome Home - The Lost Are Now Found

- *Lost child*. - The announcement and thought takes our breath away.
    - ♦ Parent/Grandparent looks up - child nowhere to be seen.
    - ♦ Spring into action - scan, search, contact the store employee
    - ♦ *We have a lost child. Associates, take your stations.*
    - ♦ The action plan implemented. The search is on.
    - ♦ The announcement: *The child has been found.*
      - If found quickly - tension eases. We carry on.
      - If it takes awhile - applause, cheers go up. Thank God.
  - God's response to *a lost child*.
    - ♦ No panic. He's God. He doesn't deal with the unknown - like we do.
    - ♦ Point of these parables: God acts with urgency out of passionate care.
      - Like the shepherd. Like the woman.
    - ♦ He desperately wants to reclaim the lost.
      - The intensity of search is mirrored by the intensity of rejoicing.
      - God is engaged!
- ❖ **What does it mean to be lost?**
- Unbelievers. Those who don't know Jesus. Hell's residents. Yes, but...
  - *The Lost* - a term coming from the *Lost sheep, coin, and son*.
  - What makes each one *lost*?
    - ♦ The sheep and son - *greener grass*. OK, but not the coin.
    - ♦ **Lost = not safe with the master.** Do you see that?
      - Separated from the master, his care, and protection
  - *The Lost* are those **separated** from the Lord - **not safe with him**.
  - **Contrast:** those **safe** with the Lord are **saved**.
    - ♦ If **not safe with Jesus - on your own** for protection, safety, life
    - ♦ Delusions of self-reliance crash when death claims the lost.
    - ♦ The lost sheep are *the Lion's lunch*, after Satan toys with them
    - ♦ The Lord desperately longs to rob death and Satan of these victories.
    - ♦ Goal: bring the *Lost* back into Jesus' family - safe - secure - prospering
  - The religious moralist saw the *lost* as social garbage to dispose of
    - ♦ Each a *lost cause* not worth reaching and rescuing.
    - ♦ In fact the self-righteous who think they're secure are totally lost.

### ❖ The Lost Are Now Found

- The verse before our text: "*Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.*"
- Who was listening to Jesus?
  - ♦ <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."*
  - ♦ The *social discards* came to listen.
    - Jesus offered God's restoring forgiveness, liberating from both sin's guilt and reign over their life. Giving each a place in God's family.
  - ♦ The self-righteous **didn't listen**. They **lectured**. = **Lost**
    - This is the sin Jesus came to rescue us from.
- **Faith listens** to Jesus since it discovered: Jesus as **totally trustworthy**.
  - ♦ Jesus said he would die for us and rise to give us life. He did. B-I-G!
  - ♦ He loved everyone enough to speak truth - rescue from sin's lies.
  - ♦ He's the Son who kept all the Father's promises.
  - ♦ The only place we're safe from lies, death, & Satan is with Jesus.
  - ♦ Gathered to Jesus: **The Lost Are Now Found** back with our Father.
- **Lost found:** Every moment we return to Jesus and listen to him
  - ♦ Every time we gather here to hear: forgiven, loved, follow (vs. scatter)
  - ♦ Every week we confess **our lostness** - separation from God.
    - We can't wait to hear: Forgiven - child of God.
    - God's saving work - constantly seeking & saving.
    - Those who humbly know this:
      - feel for the Lost
      - show mercy - we show them mercy - share Jesus
      - rejoice when an absent member of our family comes to listen
      - rejoice when someone living in darkness is drawn to Jesus.
    - Knowing our sin - we have no room to look down on anyone.
    - Only room to look up to Jesus and share him.
- "*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*" Luke 19:10
  - ♦ This is our sure hope - living and listening in his family.
  - ♦ This is our mission: Called to seek and save in Jesus' name.

*Associates, take your stations.* The search is on in Jesus' name. For in Jesus

**The Lost Are Now Found. Rejoice!**