

Key References:

Luke 15:1–7 (ESV) – Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that 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 his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV) – but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Luke 19:9–10 (ESV) – And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Ezekiel 34:11–12 (ESV) – "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

John 8:7–11 (ESV) – And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

In your life what is the most valuable or important thing that you have ever lost? What were the ramifications of losing that thing?

1 - LOST

Read Luke 19:10. How did this statement here summarise a huge part of Jesus' ministry? Would you say this was the main emphasis of Jesus?

We often talk about non-Christians being "unsaved". If we instead use Jesus' word "lost" to define them, how does that change our attitude?

2 - THE LOST SHEEP

Read Luke 15:1-2. Why wasn't Jesus physically angry with the "sinners" that were drawn to him?

Read Luke 15:3-7. Each little detail in a parable carries meaning. **Spend** time examining the details of this parable, what significance do you see?

Seeking & saving the lost was so significant to Jesus. **Do you think, we his church, still carries it like he did?**

How did the posture of the Pharisees & scribes keep "the lost" lost?

Read John 8:3-11. Examining verse 11, how was Jesus carrying her back to be found in his flock?

3 - BEING AVALIABLE & CREATING SPACE

Lee constantly came back to two ways of life we need to see the lost found. They were 1) Being Available & 2) Creating Space. Why did he keep on emphasising these two things?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. How is this heart reflected in this scripture? Does anyone have a recent testimony of sharing the good news?

4 - SEARCH AND RESCUE

Lee talked about the intention and urgency of a search and rescue team. How can we walk in a greater measure of intention and urgency? Lee talked about seeing his neighbour with new eyes. How can we see people from Jesus' perspective?

Where do you think, you could start exercising faith in this area? What simple way of planting the good seed of the gospel have you found?

How is God with us as we share the gospel?