

Life Group Notes
Sunday 16 June 2019

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Series: Our Father

Title: See our Father

Passage: Luke 15:11-32

Read the whole of Luke chapter 15.

The first story is sheep that gets lost in the country. Shepherd searches long and hard. He finds the sheep and brings it home. Then throws a party and invites all his friends and neighbours, "rejoice with me."

The second story is coin that is lost in the house. Woman searches long and hard. She finds the coin and throws a party and invites friends and neighbours, "rejoice with me."

There are two kinds of lostness. Lost in the far country and lost in the house. Both need searching for and finding. Both lead to joy which is shared with the community "rejoice with me." And in both cases, Jesus then says "I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Repentance is **accepting to be found. Allowing oneself to be found.**

The younger son is still lost when he has returned to the edge of the village. He is not repentant yet. The Father runs to him, kisses him, gives him the robe, the ring and the shoes. This is a costly display of grace. The Father's grace finally gets through to the son, and he accepts to be found. He repents. And there is a part to re-connect him with the whole community.

Now we come to our fourth story.

Sheep: Lost. Searched for. Found. "Rejoice with me."

Coin: Lost. Searched for. Found. "Rejoice with me."

Younger son. Lost. Searched for. Found. "Rejoice with me."

Older son...?

His refusal to go into the house is a deeper insult. A public shame. He is breaking relationship with Father and community. For the second time in the same day, the father must appear weak, go out to his son, must leave the house. Humiliates himself in public and goes out to the older son. The chapter opened with a question about eating and who is invited. It closes with the son invited but refusing.

The older son was lost. Searched for. Refused to be found. Refused to rejoice.

What do we learn from this Story? SEE THE FATHER.

1. Lostness is broken relationship with the father, and with the community.
2. Grace is costly and is extended to all.
3. Christ is God come looking.
4. Repentance is accepting to be found.
5. God wants sons not servants. Daughters not workers.
6. The goal of salvation is joy in community.
7. This story is our story.

Questions for application

1. How do you feel about God as Father? What does that mean to you?
2. "Repentance is accepting to be found." How do you feel about this definition? Do you agree?
3. Is there anyone that you think should be excluded from relationship with God?
4. Do you identify with the older son or the younger? Why?
5. What else struck you from this passage? What do you need to do as a result?