

Aveleigh's First Sunday in Advent 12/3/17

Sermon: ADVENT, LOST & FOUND

TEXTS Jesus told 3 stories to explain what he meant:

"The Lost Sheep" Luke 15:1-7 *"The Lost Coin"* Luke 15:8-10 *"The Lost Son"* Luke 15:11-31 **p.1122-3**
Jesus, *"I have come to SEEK and to SAVE those who are LOST."* Luke 19:10 **p. 1127**

WHAT DO I LOSE WHEN I'M "LOST"? Like a lost sheep...

1. WE LOSE OUR DIRECTION

"All of us have strayed away just like lost sheep. We've all left God's path to follow our own ways." Isaiah 53:6

2. WE LOSE GOD'S PROTECTION

"My people are wandering like lost sheep, without a shepherd to protect and guide them." Zechariah 10:2

Like a lost coin...

3. WE LOSE LIFE'S POTENTIAL

"No one has ever seen or heard or even imagined the wonderful things God has prepared and arranged for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by his power working within us." Ephesians 3:20

Like a lost son...

4. WE LOSE OUR JOY

"The younger son wasted all he'd been given and eventually he became miserable and lonely." Luke 15:14

5. WE LOSE HEAVENLY FATHER'S HOME

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul?" Luke 9:25

Christmas is God's mission to save us!

"The angel announced: 'Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will be a great joy to ALL people: Today a SAVIOR has been born FOR YOU! He is Jesus Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:11

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “*SAVED*”? Jesus said, “*I came to seek and save that which is lost.*”

Like the Shepherd going after his lost sheep...

1. JESUS CAME TO RESCUE US “*Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. He became a human and gave himself to rescue all of us.*” 1 Tim. 2:5

“*Trust me in your times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.*”
Psalm 50:15

Like the Woman searching for her lost coin...

2. JESUS CAME TO RECOVER US Jesus: “*Come to me, all you who are weary and worn out from carrying too much. Learn to trust and rest in me and you’ll recover your life.*”
Matthew 11:28

Like the Father running out to greet his lost son...

3. JESUS CAME TO RECONNECT WITH US “*Anyone who connects to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything becomes new. God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us.*” 2 Cor. 5:17-18

“*Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you!*” 2 Cor. 6:2

Dear God, I don’t understand it all, but I know I need you. As much as I know how, I ask you to come into my life. I admit that without you, God, I’m lost. I cannot save myself. I can’t even solve my own problems. Much less earn my way to heaven. I need a Savior. So I ask you, Jesus Christ, as best as I know how to rescue me, to recover me, and to reconnect me to God. I want to start that journey today. I want to learn to love you and trust you from this day forward. I humbly ask this in faith. Amen.

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and Jesus: "I have come to SEEK and to SAVE those who are LOST." Luke 19:10 p. 1127

Call to worship

Call: The Lord is near! Prepare the way of the Lord!

Response: All people everywhere, let us make ready to enter God's presence.

Call: For the Lord is holy, pure and righteous.

Response: God's glory fills this place.

Call: God calls us to truth, mercy and peace.

Response: Hearts that are just and kind please God.

Call: Let us enter God's presence with humility.

Response: The Lord is near! Prepare the way of the Lord!

Prayer of confession

Holy God, forgive us. During this season when our focus should be on the coming of your Son, instead we're filled with desire for material things. We succumb to the allure of advertising. We covet what others have. We seek to fulfill all the wants of our children with little regard to cost or need. In the process, we spend money we don't have and fail to appreciate the season's true meaning. Turn our hearts to you and to those who are less fortunate than we are. Help us tune out what culture calls us to believe so we can listen, instead, to your holy Word.