

Why Reach Out? (Luke 15:11-24)

Change Your World – Part 1

Life Church St. Louis – March 16, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV) You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Luke 15:1-2 (NIV) Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Luke 19:10 (NIV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

1. Understand the terrible _____ of sin

Luke 15:11-12 (NIV) Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

1A. Sin _____ people from God and others

Luke 15:13a (NIV) Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country...

1B. Sin squanders a person's God-given _____

Luke 15:13b-16 (NIV) ... and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that

country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

2. Jesus is the only _____ for the lost

2A. The lost must come to their _____

Luke 15:17 (NIV) "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

2B. The lost must ask for Jesus' _____

Luke 15:18-19 (NIV) I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

3. Have God's heart of _____ for the lost

3A. Be ready to _____ the lost back

Luke 15:20-21 (NIV) So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

3B. _____ with heaven when the lost are found

Luke 15:22-24 (NIV) "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

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Intro. In what ways are we supposed to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)?

Why do you suppose many believers hide their light?

What was the Pharisees problem with Jesus being around sinners (Luke 15:1-2)? How might a similar attitude keep us from reaching out?

How should our priority in life be the same as Jesus' priority in Luke 19:10?

1A. In what ways was the younger son's request an indicator of his attitude toward his father (Luke 15:11-12)?

1B. Why do you think the younger son left for a distant country (Luke 15:13)? How did his behavior show the effects of sin?

1C. How did the son's sin squander his God-given potential in life (Luke 15:14-16)?

1D. How can understanding the son's behavior give us a heart of compassion for the lost?

2A. What are some of the ways that a lost person seeks to fill his internal emptiness?

2B. Describe the thought process whereby the son came to his senses (Luke 15:17)?

2C. Why is repentance essential to the lost being found (Luke 15:7, 10, 18-19)?

2D. Why do most lost people not know they are lost? What can we do to show them that Jesus is their only hope?

3A. What do you think the son's father was thinking and doing as his son was away in the distant country?

3B. How do the father's actions on his son's return demonstrate his heart's attitude toward his lost son (Luke 15:20-23)?

3C. Why is the salvation of one lost sinner a cause for celebration on earth and in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10, 24)? How should this motivate us to reach out to the lost?