

Family TableTalk

Conversation 22

Jesus Encounters A Bunch of Lost People

read

Luke 15:1-10

think

Here, we see Jesus showing love to the most unlikely of people: “tax collectors and sinners.” Rather than keeping a safe distance, Jesus drew near to them in love. The religious leaders, on the other hand, figured that their supposed righteousness was more deserving. In response, Jesus shares these two parables. Let’s look at a few things we learn about Jesus’ character and mission.

Jesus pursues the lost and rejoices over the sinner who repents – I remember, during a family vacation to Disney World, the exact moment that I realized my family was nowhere to be seen. I was lost! That moment was so important because I could have wandered farther and farther away. The first thing I did was cry out, “Help, I’m lost!” with tears in my eyes. Finally, above all noise, my dad heard me and came running. Repentance is like my cries for help. It is recognizing that you have sinned (are lost) and that, without Jesus, you have no hope.

Jesus rebukes the self-righteous – The religious leaders were just as lost (Romans 3:23). The problem is that they did not know they were lost, even more dangerous. They do not see how bad their situation is. They are not looking for help because they do not think they need it. So the big question is NOT “do you need help?”... but “do you know you need help?” The great news is that Jesus is the savior who “came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

apply

- When and how do you identify with each of the characters in this passage?
- What might it look like for you to realize that you are lost?
- What would be different today if you truly believed that Jesus rejoices over your cries for help?

pray

Father, show me how lost and in need of Jesus I am. Give me the faith to believe that you truly long to hear my cries of repentance rather than my grunts of trying harder to be good enough on my own. Give me confidence to look to you for help and believe that your heart towards me is always good. Remind me that my strength comes in your work in me. Thank you for loving me and never giving up!

by Dr. Drew Lints

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