

Sunday, December 18, 2016

"Lost and Found"

Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Luke 15, Luke 19:10, Luke 14:23

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Now would also be a great time to allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The religious people, leaders who were around, were grumbling about Jesus
 - That he hung out with sinners
 - That he extended Grace to them and accepted them as people
- Jesus told parables to:
 - Show what the kingdom of God is like
 - Give a picture of the Father's heart
- "The value assigned something governs how hard we are willing to look for it" - Doug Kempton
- 3 Parables of things that were lost
 - Coin - Probably equal to \$100-200 today
 - Sheep - had a monetary AND emotional value (it was worth money to the shepherd but it there was also an emotional connection)
 - Son - basically says to his father "I wish you were dead" (Lost emotionally and separated from his family)
- 4 Ideas in the Parables
 - 1. Something of value has been lost (coin, sheep, son)
 - 2. A search is underway
 - v30. the father must have known where his son was and what he was doing
 - v20-21. the father was searching/watching in the direction where his son would come from
 - How much must it hurt God to watch us make bad decisions
 - 3. What was lost is FOUND
 - 4. A celebration ensues
 - v5-6 There is an intimacy between the shepherd and sheep (God and us)
 - v7 & 10 Rejoicing in Heaven and among the angels
- The point is to UNDERSTAND God's heart for the lost
 - If the older son would have understood his father's heart he would have compelled his brother to come home
 - This is what Jesus did for us (he came to compel us to come home, he KNEW the heart of God for the lost. see Luke 19:10)
- Are we willing to go to the highways and hedges to compel people? (Luke 14:23)
 - Are we willing to go anywhere?
 - Telling people that Jesus is the answer to every problem they are facing
 - God's desire is to fill his house
- Something invaluable is still lost...a celebration is waiting to happen...

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How would you describe the Kingdom of God? How would you describe the Father's heart?
2. How well does your heart align with God's heart? explain
3. How might God be calling you to align your heart more with his?
4. How do you respond to the idea that God wants to "fill his house" (Luke 14:23)?
5. What is something that God is asking you to do to compel people to "come home"?
6. What in your life needs to change to align your heart with God's heart for the lost? What needs to stay the same?