

Sunday Message: March 7, 2021

Meet Jesus | Currency and Celebration, Luke 15:8-10

Pastor Danny Lamonte

Reflection Questions

We learn from Luke 15:8-10 that our value is not in what we can produce, earn, or prove... our worthiness is based on Christ's esteem and love for us.

1 In what ways are you prone to producing, earning, or proving your own value before God in your daily life, rather than trusting in His unearned love through Christ?

2 How can practices like solitude and sabbath (rest) reorient your heart and help you to trust in God's unearned love?

3 Describe a time when you had cause to celebrate over something that was lost and then found (car keys, wallet, puppy, etc.). How does it inform your relationship with Christ to know that He seeks to find you (not the other way around)? How does it inform your relationship with Christ to know that He esteems and celebrates you (regardless of your performance)?

4 How could an understanding of Christ's unearned esteem and celebratory love for you practically affect your esteem and love for someone else in your life this week?

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Text Exploration Questions

Read Luke 15:1-10 and discuss the following questions.

The primary translation used on Sunday mornings is the ESV. The corresponding notes in the ESV Study Bible are helpful when reflecting on the questions below.

- According to verse 15:1, who is “drawing near” to Jesus? What does this reveal about the ministry of Jesus? (see also Luke 3:12-14; 5:27-32, 7:33-35, 19:1-10)
- Why are the Pharisees and scribes grumbling? (15:2) Why are the Pharisees and scribes bothered by whom Jesus is hanging out with? Ever wonder which group you’d belong to?
- The first parable in 15:3-7 relates to the sheep industry? Why is this imagery so powerful for those who are hearing it? How might you describe those in the shepherding community? What about the Pharisees and scribes who knew what the prophets proclaimed in Ezekiel 34:11-16? What is Jesus attempting to correct in the theology of the religious leaders and how would it shape and redefine their attitudes and behaviors?
- Do a quick google search and look up references to Jesus as Shepherd in the New Testament. In what ways does Jesus shepherd His people? What potential parallels can be drawn from Jesus as Shepherd and the parable of the lost sheep? It might be helpful to recall whom Jesus is hanging out with as He is teaching this parable.
- In Luke 15:8-10, who is searching for the lost coin? Who does the woman represent? More importantly, what does her search for the coin display about her desire to find the coin? Recall insights from Danny’s sermon to help answer this question, namely comments on shedding light in dark places.
- Commentator Grant Osborne states that Luke 15 is about finding lost things. What or who is lost in 15:1-10 and what is found? What is the unifying theme that connects these parables? When talking about the unifying theme, make sure your discussion includes the concept of sinners who repent. What does this mean and how does it relate to finding lost things?
- What do we make of all the celebration at the end of each parable? What is being celebrated and who is involved in the celebration?
- What is revealed about God and His mission through this passage? Reflect on your answer and insights from Danny’s sermon; how do these parables help us understand the Gospel and the kingdom of God?