

“Lost and Loster”
November 20, 2011
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Luke 15:1-24

- God’s love-searching for that which had wandered away - the sheep.
- God’s love-searching for those that have been lost or marginalized - the coin.
- God’s love-greeting for those who have come back to Him.
- Commonalities: 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Luke 15:25-32

Core Realities

- Even though they appeared to be very different, both brothers were living on the _____.
- The younger brother’s foundational truth was that the key to life was _____.
- The older brother’s foundational truth was that the key to life was “_____” or doing his duty, etc.
- Both can lead to “bad” places. They are different but both are _____.

Older Brother’s Heart

- Showed up in his _____.
- Showed up in his _____.

- Showed up in his _____ toward his father.
- Showed up in his _____.

Hard Questions/Hard Realities

- Who was “_____”?
- A moral person can be as spiritually lost as an immoral one.
- Who understood _____ more clearly?
- Neither one was about truly loving the father but about using the father’s resources.
- They were both _____ but they were both also loved.
- The father’s forgiving nature was a shock to both of them. The question is “how would they respond?”

How does this apply to us?

- Watch out for “_____”.
- Check your foundation. The wrong foundation:
 1. Hinders our ability to grasp our need for a Savior.
 2. Hinders our ability to extend _____.
 3. Hinders us from _____ the true nature of sin.
 4. Hinders us from _____ as they truly are.

The Concluding Dilemma

- What did the older brother do?
- What will we do?
- What a difference - Jesus is inviting us to look at an unhealthy older brother to help appreciate a _____.

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- What is your main “take-away” from this week? How do you plan to live that out?
- What is the difference between a good deed done by an older brother and a Christian?
- What do you think of the “You never threw me a party” comment? Could it be a lack of assurance that he was loved? How do we look for assurances that God loves us?
- Who is the “most lost” person in this story?
- Who do you identify with the most in this story?
- What do you think you might need to do differently as you look at your life in light of this parable?

