

Quick Overview

My takeaway from this message is:

This week I am going to:

Looking back over your sermon notes, was there any particular point or passage of scripture that most challenged, confused, or caught your attention?

Introduction

As you read through the accounts of Jesus' life you can't escape this simple but often overlooked question, *Why would Jesus spend so much time with people who were clearly not God fearing to the neglect of the more religious?* As we explore Luke 15 to find the answer to this question, we'll uncover the driving force behind our church's past, present and future direction.

My Story

1. What is something of value that you lost? What were the emotions you felt when you realized you had lost it? How long did you look for it?

Exploring

1. Read Luke 15:1-2. Jesus spent most of His time in the company of sinners and tax collectors—those who were relationally lost from their Heavenly Father. How often do you spend time with those who are disconnected from God? How could you spend more time around those who are lost?

2. Read Luke 15:3-7. In this parable the shepherd focused on what was lost and not on what was secure. How can you keep your focus on those who are disconnected from God instead of being satisfied with the company of Christians?

3. Read Luke 15:8-10. In this parable the woman searched until she found what had been lost. How big a priority is it for you to connect people with God? What lengths are you willing to go to in order to help someone find a relationship with God?

4. Read Luke 15:11-32. In this parable the father held nothing back in the celebration of the return of his lost son. Why was the older brother angry with his father? How did the older brother reflect the heart of the Pharisees (v. 2)?

5. Read Luke 19:10. Should our focus be any different from Jesus' while He was on the earth? Should our church's focus be any different from Jesus' while He was on the earth? Why?

6. Who do you know that is disconnected from God? How will you engage them for the purpose of introducing them to their Heavenly Father?

Next Steps

1. The value of the thing determines the time we give to searching for it, the energy we give to searching for it, and the price we are willing to pay to retrieve it. How much does God value those who are disconnected from Him? How much do you value those who are disconnected from Him? How much time are you willing to spend? How much energy are you willing to invest? What is the price you will pay?

2. Commit to pray for one disconnected person every day. Pray that God would open up opportunities for you to be a part of their life and for the opportunity to talk with them about your faith.

3. Memorize Luke 19:10

NEW RIVER NEWS

Family Night at Downpour

Once a month all middle school and high school students meet at our South Campus at 6:00 pm for Downpour. But, check out this Sunday, its FAMILY NIGHT at DOWNPOUR! Bring your whole family, including children who are younger than middle school. We'll have great games, (Dads need to put your game face on), we'll worship together, and Arthur will be teaching on "The Power of Family". It will be an AWESOME night. Please plan to be there with your family.

Big, Big Day Coming

The weekend of May 1st and 2nd we're having our Accelerate Project Celebration Weekend. Hundreds of people will be bringing a special offering above their regular tithes and offerings as well as 24 month Commitment Cards toward the expansion of our campus. This will be a HUGE Weekend of Celebration so plan on attending one of our 4 worship services that weekend.

The Accelerate Project

Want more details about The Accelerate Project? Swing by the information desk and pick up an information packet, a prayer wristband, and a prayer guide.

All message videos are available online at www.nrcc.net or by subscribing to our podcast on itunes.