

When It's OK to Be a Lost Cause

Amazing Encounters With Jesus - Part 7

February 10, 2008

WHO WAS JESUS TALKING TO?

1. Tax collectors and _____.

Luke 15:1 (NIV) *Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him.*

2. _____ and teachers of the law.

Luke 15:2 (NIV) *But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?

“The Parable of the Lost Son”

(Luke 15:11-32)

THIS PARABLE ILLUSTRATES TWO WAYS THAT WE CAN DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM GOD:

1. _____ the faith = younger son.

Luke 15:13 (NIV) *Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a **distant country** and there squandered his wealth in wild living.*

2. _____ the faith = older son.

Luke 15:28-29 (NIV) *The older brother became angry and **refused to go in...** Look! All these years I've been **slaving** for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.'*

Both ways ultimately keep us from willingly entering our Father's house – from having a personal relationship with Him.

WHO IS THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE STORY?

- _____ = the man with two sons.

Luke 15:11 (NIV) *Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.”*

THIS PARABLE ILLUSTRATES TWO WAYS THAT GOD TRIES TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE:

1. He _____.

Luke 15:20b (NIV) *But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

2. He _____.

Luke 15:28 (NIV) *The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.’*

This should be called “The Parable of the Gracious Father.”

WHAT’S SO AMAZING ABOUT THIS ENCOUNTER?

1. God _____ our return.

Luke 15:31-32 (NIV) *“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”*

2. God wants us to _____ with Him.

Luke 15:6b (NIV) *‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’*

Luke 15:9b (NIV) *‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’*

We are or have at one time been “lost.” Jesus’ mission is to find the “lost.” Be a “lost” cause then join with Jesus in his cause for the lost.