



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“LOST: Lost My Mind”

Ps. James Lowe– November 8, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

What’s a fact you believed to be true only to later find you were wrong? How did you come to that realization?

1. What would you do if you received a large inheritance?
2. What’s the worst job you have done? What was so awful about that job?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command,

yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Walk Away:

When you walk away from God you always end in a position you never thought you would. When the devil has gotten what he wants, he has no interest in giving even the smallest relief of the anguish and degradation of his victim. When your mind goes astray, you will end up financially, socially and spiritually broke.

Wake Up

When the son realized he had been foolish, he woke up and went to the father. He showed repentance by his action. He had to get up and walk. The son wasn't expecting anything but to be a servant at his father's house, yet the father had compassion on his son in a way the son had never imagined: He pitied him. Saw his condition - his poverty and his wretched appearance - and was moved with compassion and love; and ran. This is opposed to the manner in which the son came. The beauty of the picture is greatly heightened by these circumstances. The son came slowly - the father "ran." The love and joy of the old man was so great that he hastened to meet him and welcome him to his home. Fell on his neck - Threw his arms around his neck and embraced him. And kissed him - This was a sign at once of affection and reconciliation. This must at once have dissipated every doubt of the son about the willingness of his father to forgive and receive him. The son confessed and forsake his sin. He acknowledged the depth of his sin. He didn't ask or demand anything.

Witness Grace

In the middle of the greatest expression of love and grace, the oldest son complains in a fake attempt to get justice. This son had continued in outward conformity to the law, but within himself was proud of his virtue, without brotherly love. The father points to the joy of a son who was dead and has come to life, and shows his oldest son the grace that is available for him too.

The story of the Prodigal Son is more the story of the prodigal sons. One son walked away from his father's house; the other one stayed closed but yet was far from his fathers' heart. One of them came to his senses, after having lost his mind and experienced the grace of the Father. The other one witnessed grace. We are not told if he responded to it or not. We all can identify with one or the other son at some point in our lives. We all have the chance to witness His grace. Our response will make the difference in the outcome.

APPLICATION QUESTION (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another.

1. With which person in the parable do you identify the most? Why?
2. What did the father do to make the son feel at home? Have you experienced the same kind of embrace by your heavenly Father?
3. Do you see within yourself the dilemma of wanting God to be merciful to you and yet wanting to be vindictive toward others? When or in relation with whom do you struggle?

PRAYER:

1. Pray for a heart of repentance that runs back to the Father and not away from him.
2. Pray for the salvation of a loved one. Plan the ways you will celebrate when he gets saved.
3. Pray, confess and praise God the Father for His embrace and forgiveness.