



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Lost: Lost Shepherd”

Ps James Lowe - October 11, 2015

#### WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

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

- What is one of the most valuable things you've ever lost?
- What is one of the most valuable possessions that you currently own that is small in size?
- What is something you own that you would never sell no matter the price?

#### WORD (10-15 minutes)

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

Ezekiel 34:10-11 ESV *“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.”*

God declares us to be lost even though we may not be aware of it. With great concern he searches for us to bring us back to himself. And once we have been found by him, God then enlists us in his search for others.

Everyone has sinned and is estranged from God. Many are not aware of the grave danger they are in. Not only are there serious consequences in this life for our sin, there is the ominous judgement that awaits us for eternity if we are never reconciled to God.

Luke 19:10 ESV *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

Jesus exemplifies this truth: When you are trying to save somebody's life from destruction, you cannot be primarily concerned about preserving your own life. Jesus had to give his life as a sacrifice to achieve our redemption. This was the inevitable outcome of his seeking and saving the lost.

Luke 15:1-10 ESV *Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Jesus tells the parables about the lost sheep and lost coin to teach God's concern for lost people. The popular religious leaders had lost sight of God's heart for estranged humanity. Though they were meticulous in their observance of countless religious rules, they had developed a hardened heart to the

lost. Jesus, on the other hand, cares deeply for the lost. His teaching was a rebuke to the religious who actually were lost themselves and didn't know it. They were lost shepherds.

When he told these parables, his intent was also to teach his disciples to follow his own example and engage in seeking and saving people who were separated from God.

And of course the parables also were intended to bring comfort to those who knew they were separated from God because of their sin. They were not in a hopeless condition. God cares about them in spite of their sin and is desiring to reconcile them back to himself. God will do this because of Jesus' sacrifice of his life on the cross when he took the punishment for our sins. All that is necessary is for a person to believe that Jesus, the Son of God, did this for us, and to repent, that is, to acknowledge their sin and turn from it toward God with the intention to follow God and obey him.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- Who are you especially burdened for to come into a right relationship with God?
- What do you think are the obstacles to these people repenting and believing the Gospel?
- What can you do to help them surrender to and follow Jesus? Do you need someone else to help you? How could they help you?

### **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Pray that God will show you how to reach those who you are especially concerned about and want to come into a right relationship with God.
- Pray that God will open your eyes to other people that he especially wants you to reach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray that God will fill you with the Holy Spirit, so that you might receive guidance, wisdom, and boldness to be an effective witness for Jesus.