

WEEK 40:

LOST COIN, LOST SHEEP

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 15:1-10

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Ezekiel 34:1-16, Acts 4:7-12, Ephesians 2

“Jesus’s teaching consistently attracted the irreligious while offending the Bible-believing, religious people of his day. However, in the main, our churches today do not have this effect. The kind of outsiders Jesus attracted are not attracted to contemporary churches, even our most avant-garde ones. We tend to draw conservative, buttoned-down, moralistic people. The licentious and liberated or the broken and marginal avoid church. That can only mean one thing. If the preaching of our ministers and the practice of our parishioners do not have the same effect on people that Jesus had, then we must not be declaring the same message that Jesus did.”

— Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Read Luke 15:1-2. What do you know about the two groups of people that are in the crowd Jesus is preaching to? How do these groups likely think and feel about each other? Which group(s) of people do you consciously or subconsciously tend to view as the problem in the world?

Read Luke 15:3-7. The shepherd invites all his friends and neighbors for a party after he finds his lost sheep. What type of event would cause you to throw a spontaneous party and invite all your neighbors? How easy or hard is it for you to believe that God rejoices over you in this way?

Read Luke 15:8-10. What do you feel when you’ve lost something important? What are the implications for our lives that God feels a similar urgency to find and rescue His lost children?

Read Ezekiel 34:11-16. How has God specifically fulfilled these prophecies through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? Is the gospel reality that you are a once lost child who’s been found by Jesus a daily reality in your mind?