**Parables 3- The Lost**

***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* 2 Timothy 3:16**

T**he backdrop of Jesus earthly ministry is often as interesting if not more interesting than the parables themselves.**

***Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him (Jesus). 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”*****Luke 15:1-2**

**One of the most important questions we can ask ourselves is who does scripture reveal Jesus to be?**

**True knowledge of God will be on display in our lives when we are able to receive people as Jesus did.**

**We need to allow Jesus to be who he is and give people the opportunity to judge for themselves.**

**Jesus’ love for humanity made him irresistible to those who needed him and repulsive to those who only needed themselves.**

***3 So he told them this parable: 4 “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? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 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.’ 7 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.***

***8 “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? 9 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.’ 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”***

**The parables about the lost are not about the things that are lost but about The One who is searching for them.**

***“(Social media) helps us find the tiny cliques of people who are already convinced for the crazy things we believe. It makes it far too easy to self-select voices that always affirm and never challenge our assumptions and sacred cows. Plus, many of our sanest thinkers are choosing to stay out of the fray altogether. They’ve clued in that the most strident and extreme voices are liked, shared, and re-tweeted-not the most reasonable ones.”* Dave Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons**

**We are going to have to open our hearts and minds to people who have a far different world-view than we have.**

***“Christianity has managed to thrive as a minority religion countless times through history-and does so in many places around the world today. Hold tight to the fact that holding tight to biblical conviction is not only worthwhile and critical but also absolutely doable. Despite the faults we Christians bring to it, Christianity practiced well helps people thrive and communities flourish.”* Dave Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons**

**Our charge is to model Christ and share the Good News that “Renewal, redemption, restoration, and re-creation- is God’s purpose for every human life.**