

Storied A Story Worth Telling- Session #1 Small Group Notes

In this series, we are going to look at parables from Jesus that are used to illustrate what the kingdom of heaven is like. Jesus used parables to share truths about himself, but he did so in a way that some people could not understand it due to their hardened hearts.

Introduction:

Share a time when you received some great news. How did you respond? Who did you share it with?

Share a time when you received some heartbreaking news. How did you respond? Who did you share it with?

What similarities and differences exist among the response and with whom you shared news with?

Discuss:

1. Read Luke 15:1-2

- The King can redeem any story.

Explain: Just as Jesus took a man such as Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and redeemed his life, we can see how Jesus was going to take a setting with people surrounding him that needed redemption and was going to use it to share truths about himself.

Ask:

Why do you think Jesus went to the sinners and tax collectors to share this story and not the theological elite? Jesus was attacked for being with sinners by the Pharisees, why was Jesus' response a story more than a response?

What can be some life situations that we are currently in that we allow to remain unredeemed that God may want to redeem by revealing himself?

What hope does it give you to know that Jesus can redeem any story? How does that change your perspective of understanding the work of Jesus?

2. Read Luke 15:3-4

- The King seeks.

Explain: The audience would have known exactly what Jesus was speaking about. Their culture and even some of the people sitting around there had the responsibility to care for sheep whether currently or in the past. Jesus speaks right to the heart of people and knows us where we are. Sheep are dumb animals. They get lost and they fall into things. They can eat too much and have to lie down on the ground. They follow the crowd, even if it is going in the wrong way. Yet, we see the shepherd did not leave the one sheep behind. He loved the sheep and went after the sheep.

Ask:

What is a modern example (movie, show, book) that you can think of that involves someone leaving everything behind to find someone or something? Why are we drawn to these stories?

Where did you meet Jesus? Looking back, are there things, people, or events, that happened to see how He was seeking a relationship with you?

How did Jesus begin to show that we don't change the message of the gospel, but we change the method of how it is shared?

3. Read Luke 15: 5-7

- The King saves
- The King rejoices

Explain: The illustration hit home even more for the audience of Jesus as the shepherd celebrated the finding, saving, and carrying home of the lost

sheep. The parable speaks of the saving work of the Lord and the rejoicing of what happens when even one person comes to faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ! Then Jesus hits right at the heart of the sinners and tax collectors that were scolded by the Pharisees. He shows them the availability of grace and mercy freely offered by God to all!

Ask:

Read Luke 19:10. How does this verse relate to what imagery Jesus is sharing here?

Is there something in your life that you have been afraid to repent of? Maybe you have felt like forgiveness is unavailable to you? How does Jesus' words correct our misconceptions of repentance and forgiveness?

How does this story affirm the love and grace of God? What are ways that we can partner in sharing about the saving work of Jesus?

4. Read Luke 15:8-10

- To be lost means being out of service.
- To be found means back in service.

Explain: Jesus reaffirmed the story to hit even further home of how every person matters to the Lord with the parable of the lost coin. She could have been satisfied with her nine, but the lost coin mattered, just as we matter to the Lord. Therefore, the rejoicing of heaven is not a feeling, though it brings joy. The rejoicing of heaven is a sure foundation in Christ that is based upon truth. And the rejoicing of heaven shows us that God's work of redemption is something we can share in as well.

Ask:

What is the last thing that you lost and then later found? Why do we rejoice in some of the simplest things in our lives being found as much as bigger things?

What is one thing that can help you this week from today's discussion to grow closer to the Lord?