

Introduction:

- God' Profound Concern for the Lost.
 - In Luke 15, we find three parables in a row having to do with something lost.
 - My goal this morning is to continue to move you toward the fields white to harvest.
 - My goal is to stir within you a Godly burden for the lost.
 - My goal is to make us uncomfortable in our convenient Christianity.
- I am starting with what might be considered a rather stinging question: "If everybody witnessed like you, would you be saved?"

I. God's Profound Concern For The LostA. Who are they, the lost? Who is it that is lost?

1. The lost are the people that are away from God. They are separated from God. They are dwelling in spiritual darkness. They are spiritually dead. The lost are those who have not yet found eternal life in Christ Jesus. They are those who are yet to discover the love of God, the depths of His mercy and His incredibly forgiving heart!
2. It is hard to admit you are lost.
 - a) Kelly to me, "Tim, we are not lost. I just do not know where we are."
 - b) Me to Kelly, "Babe, I don't know where we are going but we are making good time."
3. Luke 15 Jesus describes the lost as lost coin, lost sheep, lost son. If something is lost it is not in its right place. If something is lost it's ruined; destroyed; wasted or squandered. Jesus introduces us to three lost things.
 - a) The Lost Sheep - is lost because it wandered off and had no idea how to get back. It is alone, by itself and is living in danger of death and being destroyed. Is 53:6
 - b) Lost coin - it is lost and does not even know it is lost. It does not know that it needs to be found. Many, maybe even the majority of people who are lost, do not know it!
 - c) The lost son - is lost because he chose to be lost. He made the decision to be lost and he knows the way back but is not sure he will be welcomed back.

B. How does God feel about the Lost?

1. The point of the parables in Luke 15 is that God is greatly concerned about the lost and will go to great lengths to get that which was lost back.
 - a) What lengths are you willing to go to in order to get the lost found?
 - b) Do you have the heart of God and are weighted with concern for those who do not know Jesus? God is going to great extremes to find the lost sheep (leaves

- 99), lost coins (tears the house apart) lost son (looks every day and welcomes him home)!
2. God does not want anyone to perish! *"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9, ESV)
 3. God does not want anyone to die without Him. *"Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live."* (Ezekiel 18:23, NLT)
 4. God was so concerned that He gave His one and only Son so that lost people would not perish but find everlasting life. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16, ESV)
 5. God is so concerned that when a sinner is saved and turns to God heaven throws a party because the lost matter to God. *"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* (Luke 15:10, ESV)
- C. Three things we learn about God here:
1. The lost matter greatly to God. He has profound concern for the lost!
 2. The lost can be found. That is why the shepherd searched and the woman searched and the Father looked daily.
 3. God call us to join Him in search of the lost. He calls us to have the same concern!

II. Paul's Concern For The Lost

- A. What did Pauls concern for the lost look like?
1. 2 Cor 11:23-28. Paul was so concerned he suffered immensely to get the Gospel out! He was not a convenient christian. (Afraid, busy, tired)
 2. He carried a burden for the lost! Listen to his words:
 - a) ***"I am under obligation [I am indebted] both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."*** (Romans 1:14-15, ESV). What cause this? See TPT....
 - b) ***"Love obligates me to preach to everyone, to those who are among the elite and those who are among the outcasts, to those who are wise and educated as well as to those who are foolish and unlearned."*** (Romans 1:14, TPT)
 - c) The Word for indebted or obligation is Greek word-'opheiletes'. It means debtor. One who owes another.
 - (1) To me, a debt is a burden. The bigger the debt the bigger the burden.
 - (2) Burden - that which is carried; a load, heavy. That which is grievous, wearisome or oppressive. Websters 1828 Dictionary. le. Weight vest. I am asking the Lord for increase burden of heaven on my heart for the lost.

- (3) When you think of the lost do you feel anything? Do lost people weigh upon your heart?
- d) Romans 13:8 Owe no man nothing except the debt of love. If I love you I will tell you about His great love.
- B. His love for others was beyond reason!
1. He was willing to cut himself off from Christ for their sake! Anyone willing to do that?
 - a) "I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh." (Romans 9:1-3, ESV).
 - b) He was telling the truth. In Paul was such a burden for those who did not know Christ he was willing to cut himself off from Christ for their sake! He was saved but they were not! This horrified the Apostle Paul!
 - c) "It is as though Paul was writing to hearers who would not be able to understand such love." Ray Comfort.
 2. In Exodus 32:32, we see the same thing in Moses. Moses also said scratch my name from your book. "But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." (Exodus 32:32, ESV).
 3. Jesus actually did exactly that! He died for us and went to hell that we might be saved!
 - a) He demonstrated His love toward us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8.
 - b) Therefore we are obligated to go and to tell others about Christ and His great love.
 - c) Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of unforgiving servant. The man forgiven the great debt should have been telling his fellow man about the debt the master cancelled. It is what we should be doing regularly! Love is the currency of heaven!
 - d) "The depth of our evangelistic zeal will be in direct proportion to the depth of our love." Ray Comfort p255, The Way of the Master.

III. Will I Be Concerned For The Lost?

- A. How do we grow concern for the lost?
1. Spend time thinking about lost people. Their eternal fate.
 - a) Let it move/burden your heart. See the lost as perishing!
 - b) Ie. *What do you do when an emergency vehicle drives by? You get out of the way. You obey the law which says, you must pull over. Why? Because*

someone's life is possibly on the line... and it must be given priority! That is how we should be when it comes to the eternal salvation others. It is an extreme emergency.

2. Immerse yourself in God's love. Love cares! Love much! He who has been forgiven much loves much. Love is the key!
 3. Stay in the Word. Take the scripture of all these sermons and ask Holy Spirit to make them go deep.
- B. Let God into the clay of your heart!
1. **First, admit it.** "I don't have concern for the lost. Put it on the table and plead that God would change your heart to care.
 2. Jn 4:31-35 My food is to do the will of Him who sent me.... Fields are white to harvest! Look! It was Jesus greatest desire to bring people Freedom had Life and His Father glory!
 3. **Second, accept the burden of the Lord!**
 - a) Many of you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit! For what? To be witnesses!!!
 - b) Accept the great commission and go and make disciples.
 - c) See lost people as those perishing ...forever.
 4. **Third, be attentive and attracted** to the field white unto harvest. Jn 4:35. They are ready now!
 5. **Fourth, attempt to win someone to the Lord!**
- C. Be a sent one!
1. *"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21, ESV)*
 2. *"I am sending you "to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18, ESV)*
 3. *"Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**" (John 4:34, ESV)*
 4. John Newton a slave trader who repented of his sin wrote, Amazing Grace. Was lost now found once blind now see.

Conclusion:

- The Lost matter to God.
- The Lost can be found.
- Jesus calls us to search for the lost.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13, ESV)

"let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:20, ESV)

"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8, ESV)

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4, ESV)

That keeps us vigilant, you can be sure. It's no light thing to know that we'll all one day stand in that place of Judgment. That's why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God. God alone knows how well we do this, but I hope you realize how much and deeply we care. The Message(2 Co 5:11).

Charles Spurgeon said, "Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that."