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WARM UP

Have you ever seen a movie or heard a story where midway through, a character turned from either hero to villain, or villain to hero? Who was it and what happened when they changed?

WORD

Read [Luke 15: 1-10](#)

Jesus is approached by tax collectors, some of the most frowned upon people in Jewish society because of their reputed shady dealings. At the same time within sight are some Pharisees who criticise Jesus for spending time with sinners. He masterfully addresses both of these groups of people by pointing them towards God the Father.

NOTES

1 He Doesn't Stop

³So 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?”

[Luke 15:3-4](#) (ESV)

God does not give up his pursuit of the one who is lost. He does not run out of love until He finds what and who He is looking for. God is passionate for the lost, and we need to make His last command our first priority and purpose of His church.

- God is in pursuit of you with His relentless love that will not give up on you. How will you respond?

2 The Lost Get Found

⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And 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.’

[Luke 15:5-6](#) (ESV)

⁹And 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.’

[Luke 15:9](#) (ESV)

Jesus describes God's pursuit of the tax collectors like a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine of his sheep to pursue the one that he lost. When it is found, there is a celebration. Jesus also describes a woman who loses a valuable coin and turns her house upside down just to find it. God is a God who sees the lost being found as a reason to party!

- Have you been found? Tell us about it.
- Have you lost your “rejoice” - forgetting that God looks for you and finds you?
- If you are a Christian, do you still rejoice when lost people find their way home to their Father?

- If you are not a follower of God, would you like to follow Him, knowing that Jesus has come to find you and sees you as valuable and worth the pursuit?

3 Reckless Love

²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

[Luke 15:20](#) (ESV)

There is absolutely nothing that can separate us from God's love. God is waiting upon us despite our being lost and never stops loving us.

- Share a time when you felt God's compassion and love for you even though you may have felt you were “a long way off” from Him.

PRAYER

- If you are a Christian, pray that you would rejoice in the love that God has for you, and that it would cause you to pursue others in the overflow of that love.
- If you are not a follower of Christ, would you like to receive Christ, who laid down His life to forgive you and cleanse you of your sin?
- Pray for the lost in your group, circle of friends, and family who need to experience God's love. Pray for them by name.