

DESTINY CALLS

LOST



Common Ground | "Lost"

09.01.2010

Foundational Scripture

Luke 19:1-9

1Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. **2**A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. **3**He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. **4**So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

6So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

8But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10**For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Outline

- **Introduction**
 - Most of the time, being lost is just an inconvenience
- **The Crowd**
 - Two Groups of People
 - The ones that break the rules: the tax collectors and “sinners”
 - The ones that follow the rules: the Pharisees and religious people
- **The Condition**
 - We are stubborn in our spiritual condition
 - We instinctively deny our lostness
 - Bryan got lost in Alabama
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- **The Christ**
 - God observed our lostness
 - God answered our lostness
 - When we were lost, Jesus came to seek us.
 - Lostness = Darkness
- **The Conviction**
 - Zacchaeus salvation was evident by his repentance.

Questions for Discussion

- 1.) Who do we as the Church typically view (and label) as tax collectors and “sinners?”
- 2.) How do we (especially us rule-followers) view people in the dark? How do we tend to view (even within our own ministry) people who have made mistakes or slipped away? Are we prone to writing them off or loving/chasing after them?
- 3.) “Reach out, be the light to those in the dark” but “remain separate and Holy.” - does this seem to be a confusing idea in our ministry? How do we reach out to those lost in sin without losing our testimony?
- 4.) How was Zacchaeus salvation made evident? Is Salvation real without repentance?

Supporting Scriptures

John 12:44-46

44 Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me.

45 When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. **46** I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

Matthew 18:12-13

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? **13** And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

Luke 15:1-7

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." **3** Then Jesus told them this parable: **4**

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' **7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Numbers 17:12

12 The Israelites said to Moses, "We will die! We are lost, we are all lost!"

Psalms 119:176

176 I have strayed like a lost sheep.

Seek your servant,
for I have not forgotten your commands.

Ezekiel 34:16

16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.