



Correspondent's Corner

Lost and Found

January, 2019

Sometime around 1995 or so we were going to walk into Adler Lake which is north of Windy Lake about a half hour hike. You turn off Jamieson Creek road at around 31 km and go west past Windy Lake and then take a

short road to the right to a parking area where the trail starts. We had our two older sons of 13 and 10 years with us then and we found the lake and fished with a little success. When it was time to go we started walking back but after ten minutes or so we had wandered off the trail and it suddenly occurred to me that I did not know where we were. Amongst all the Jack pine trees the bush looked all the same and fear gripped me that we were lost. I had failed to take note of the trees that were marked to show the way back. The only thing I could think of to do was to try to retrace our steps to hopefully find the Lake again or some familiar spot in the bush. We were so relieved when the familiar ground was discovered and we resumed the path back to the vehicle.

Luke chapter 15 is a three part parable on being lost and found. The Lord Jesus used the means of parables extensively to illustrate spiritual truths. One of the early examples in Luke's Gospel is found in chapter 5 verses 31 and 32 where the Lord Jesus says "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." A parable is an earthly story or example with a spiritual meaning. In Luke 15 there is a lost sheep which is found then a lost coin that is found and lastly a lost son that is found.

These three stories were told by the Lord Jesus in response to what is written at the beginning of the chapter. The text starts by saying that the Publicans (tax collectors) and sinners drew near to the Lord Jesus to hear Him. This was something that caused the Jewish religious leaders to be indignant and they said "This man receives sinners and eats with them". They were unhappy with the Lord Jesus for His obvious love for all of society. This opposition to the Lord was something that the Lord Jesus experienced all of His life on this earth. In the end He was crucified by those who hated Him without a cause. Psalm 109 verse 5 says that "they rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love".

Getting back to the parable, in the first part the Lord speaks by way of a question to the leaders," which one of you if you had an hundred sheep, if one wandered away, would not go and search for it until you found it?" The answer is obvious that they would surely go and look for it to bring it back. Having found the lost sheep there would be rejoicing over its recovery. So likewise there is rejoicing over just one sinner who repents and is saved, even Heaven rejoices over such. Secondly the Lord spoke of a woman who had 10 pieces of silver but lost one of the pieces. She then made a diligent search for the lost piece and eventually found it and rejoiced over its recovery. Once again the Lord said that there is "rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repents". Thirdly the Lord spoke of a father who had two sons. The younger son requested his inheritance and took it and went into a far country. The son wasted the inheritance with riotous living and eventually came to the end of his resources. The son decided that he would go back to his father and request to just be made as a hired servant. The father saw him coming from a distance and ran and embraced his prodigal son and rejoiced over the lost son who was found. The father would have no part of making his son as a hired servant but happily received him as the son he always was. There was a feast prepared and as the story goes they began to be merry.

The spiritual lessons are clear. To the religious leaders who were self righteous and were critical of the Lord associating with any who would come to Him, the message was: these Publicans and sinners feel their need of me and there should be opportunity for them to come and be blessed. The Lord Jesus said in John 6:37 "Him that comes to me I will never cast out".

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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