

THIS IS US – PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE

This is us: We're passionate about people. Lost people matter to God, so they must matter to us.



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - *John 3:16 (NIV)*

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” - *Luke 19:10 (NIV)*

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” - *Luke 15:1-2*

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he 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 neighbours 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.

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, ‘**Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.**’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had **two sons**. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, **give me my share of the estate.**’ **So he divided his property between them.** ¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ **“When he came to his senses,** he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: **Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’** ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. **“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.** ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² **“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.**

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ **So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.** ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. **So his father went out and pleaded with him.** ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ **““My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.””**

There are three common threads in these three parables:

- 1. THERE WAS A DILEMMA: Something of great value was missing**
- 2. THERE WAS A SOLUTION : What was missing was important enough to warrant an all-out search**
- 3. THERE IS A RESPONSE: Retrievals result in rejoicing**

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” - Luke 15:10 (NIV)

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. - Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

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For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

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