

Morning Worship

November 3, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading		Romey Keith Davis
Hymn # 502 <i>Open My Eyes, That I May See</i>		Romey/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Hymn # 573 <i>Set My Soul Afire</i>		Romey/People
Hymn # 531 <i>Redeemed</i>		Romey/People
Offering Prayer		Bill Schottel
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Hymn # 586 <i>We've A Story to Tell</i>		Romey/People
Hymn # 29 <i>How Majestic Is Your Name</i>		Romey/People
Message		Bro. Allan
Hymn # 302 <i>I Hear Thy Welcome Voice</i>		Romey/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Closing Chorus # 178 <i>He Is Lord</i>		Romey/People

Confession of a Determined Man

Luke 15:1-32

Have you ever lost anything? It's really irritating, isn't it? We're constantly losing car keys, losing a wallet, losing your cell phone, etc. They make devices to ping all these things, but it would be my luck I'd probably lose that, too!

Luke chapter 15 is all about lost things, and the joy that comes with finding them. The Pharisees are gossiping about Jesus, that He likes to hang around with riff raff, the scum of society. So Jesus tells three stories to describe why such people are important to God. **Let's read it together.**

Like myself, many of you have heard this passage of Scripture taught and preached many times over the decades. Most of us are very familiar with the parable of THE PRODIGAL SON. Now, let me just clarify something – I believe when Jesus told a parable, He always had a real story in mind. You know, the names were changed to protect the innocent kind of thing. He wasn't just giving a hypothetical situation. Sure, parables are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning. I just believe Jesus didn't make stuff up to fit what He taught. I believe He always had a credible, real life situation in mind.

Jesus is the Master Teacher. He includes a story for everyone in the crowd: one about a lost sheep (that's for the farmers in the audience), one about a lost coin (that's for the women present), and one about a lost son (that's for all the parents out there). Actually, He's describing the tax collectors and sinners, the self-righteous Scribes and the Pharisees, and a God-Father Who loves both.

Usually a parable has one central meaning. Perhaps you've thought over the years how unfair it was that the bad boy got the party and the good one didn't? Well, when we understand that the narrative was infinitely more about the Father's love than the prodigal's misconduct, then our whole perspective changes. Let's define the word "PRODIGAL" which has been attached to this parable –

- Spending money or resources freely and recklessly
- Wastefully Extravagant
- Having or giving something on a lavish scale
- A person who spends money in a recklessly extravagant way

Through the years we can see that the older son in Jesus' narrative is every bit as lost as the younger. Perhaps we could say he is more lost, if there is such a thing. In his book *The Prodigal God* -- Timothy Keller points out the two brothers represent the two basic ways people try to make life work.

- **The younger son** pursues "Self-Discovery"
- He is on a quest to find and fulfill himself
- Even if a few people have to get hurt along the way

The older brother is committed to a more socially respectable way of being in the world –

- The way of "Moral Conformity"
- He's on a program of self-salvation, earning the approval of his community and the favor of his Father
- When he feels the terms of this deal are violated, his good attitude evaporates into resentment

What we pick up in these stories is that...

I. God loves all kinds of lost people

It doesn't matter what kind of person you are: you are not outside the love of God. More than one person shaken by the horrors of life has said, "Oh, considering what I've done, I can never be forgiven!" What they're saying says more about what they believe about God than what they believe about themselves. They just need to know how great our God is!" We have a great and awesome God! Consider these examples of the lost that Jesus loves.

1. The stupidly lost (lost sheep)

Sheep are stupid creatures. They can easily wonder off on their own, where predators pick them off more easily, without the protection of their shepherd. They think they're smart, yet they'll follow each other over a cliff, or get caught in a briar patch, or grow frightened of running water in a creek. They need a shepherd.

In Ezekiel 34:11, 16, God said, "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them ... 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." A consistent theme throughout Scripture is that God searches for his people as a shepherd searches for a lost sheep. And if you have enough sense to turn to God, he will find you.

Yet sadly, some people are stupid. They marvel at the Grand Canyon and how it was formed by thousands and thousands of years of erosive force of the Colorado River. They love the creation, yet they never credit the Creator. They love their children, and their spouse, and even themselves, yet never contemplate the truest, purest love modeled by the Heavenly Father God and His son Jesus who brought about the cross of redemption for all sinners who would believe. God Himself is the very definition of love. Yet some people are too stupid to get that. They are like sheep without a shepherd. And they are needlessly putting themselves in eternal danger.

But oh, how the shepherd searches for them one by one, until he finds one. And then he lifts that sheep up on his broad shoulders and brings the sheep home to his flock. And celebrates! Every sheep matters to Him. Every person matters to Him. It's a grand celebration. Then there's...

2. The simply lost (lost coin)

Some people are like an inanimate object, a coin that disappears in a woman's home. It might have been part of her dowry, this coin that represented a day's wages. It might have been part of a necklace or headpiece she wore. Homes back then had dirt floors and hardly any windows. So it took quite a search to track down the missing coin, this inanimate object that couldn't come to its senses and say, "Here I am! Find me!" It didn't even know it was lost. The coin was totally dependent upon the woman to find it. That coin might have never been found if I were doing the searching.

To the woman, this coin had all the value in the world. And when she found it, oh, she invited the whole neighborhood to celebrate! It was a day to party! Then there's...

3. The selfishly lost (lost son)

We didn't read this story in the latter half of Luke 15, but you know it by its familiar title: The Prodigal Son. It's one of my favorite stories in the Bible. I've preached on it several times. And it illustrates the selfishly lost, the young man who basically says to his dad, "I wish you were dead! Just give me my inheritance now!" He's quite self-centered. And of course, he goes out and blows it all on reckless living. Until he grows ... absolutely ... miserable! It's a good place to be, at rock bottom, because from there, everything else is up!

But the father never gives up on his son, or should I say sons, because there are two in the story: the reckless spendthrift and the arrogant, prideful firstborn. And the father individually reaches out to both, recklessly pouring out his love for them even when neither deserves it. As the youngest is brought back into the fold, the father invites the whole village to celebrate. It's party time!

II. Some Implications for us

1. Repent and return to Jesus

Maybe you're the lost sheep, or the lost coin, or the lost son. Maybe it's time to bring an end to your stupid or simple or selfish lost condition, and let God find you and bring you home. If you didn't catch it, God is the shepherd, the woman, and the father in the stories. Maybe you need to surrender your life control to Jesus, make him Lord and Master of all, and allow Him to replace your lifelong list of sins with His love and forgiveness. Maybe this message is for you. Jesus loves you. He wants you to come home, to be found. He wants to celebrate your return!

2. Love those Jesus loves

Who does Jesus love? Everyone! We like to think we love everyone, but we tend to spend time with people most like us, and scorn or judge or talk bad about those different from us. Do we love the refugee without a country? Do we care about the Soldiers who away from home for the first time dedicating their lives to defend our freedom? Do we love that granddaughter who colored her hair purple and moved in with some strange friends? Do we love the one who gossips too much, or eats too much, or races down the halls too fast, or has too much money, or has too little money and never should have moved here in the first place? You get the idea.

Think of your worst enemy. Now consider how much Jesus loves that person. He loves them as much as He loves you! And when you think about all your sin, it's

amazing he loves you! It's amazing He loves me! Love those Jesus loves, and you'll find yourself loving sinners and prostitutes and tax collectors ... and even Pharisees!

3. Celebrate with heaven when lost people are found

Don't miss out on the celebration! Encourage people to come home. Join Jesus in His mission to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Tell them how much Jesus loves them, how they are created to have a relationship with their Creator. Show them by your life how much you love Jesus and try to live by his Word. Don't be like the sour-faced Pharisees. Celebrate when someone turns away from their sin and turns to Jesus. Have a party! Make a big deal out of it, because it is a big deal! All heaven parties when one person turns to God. All heaven! It's a huge deal!

Conclusion

Think back to where the parable ends, with the father and his older son standing by the fence together, the father's invitation extended, "COME, JOIN THE PARTY," and the older son's response, well, hanging in the balance. The response of this son reveals what was in his heart. I want to tell you this evening – DON'T MISS THE PARTY.

Too often we Miss the Party because of the same issues this older brother exhibited.

- Don't let ANGER cause you to Miss the Party
- Don't let JEALOUSY cause you to Miss the Party
- Don't let BITTERNESS cause you to Miss the Party
- Don't let RESENTMENT cause you to Miss the Party
- Don't let DISRESPECT cause you to Miss the Party

Don't Miss The Party!

Remember the Persecuted

Religious liberty is the freedom to hold beliefs of one's choice and to live according to those beliefs. While it was foundational to the formation of the United States of America, religious freedom is not merely an American right, but an inherent human right. Yet the human race currently faces unprecedented religious persecution from governmental and social forces worldwide.

Around the world, Christians are harassed, discriminated against, and even killed simply because of their beliefs. Over the last decade especially, Christians have been harassed in more countries, including the United States, than any other religious group. We do indeed face a worldwide crisis of religious liberty. We must increase awareness of the expanding threat to religious freedom around the world and the persecution that many Christians are facing. As we grow awareness of this problem we must also increase engagement that will bring tangible hope and help to the persecuted. As fellow Christians, it is our responsibility to care about those who face danger just for living out their faith and lift them up in prayer. Here are some ways you can pray for the persecuted church:

Pray that God would strengthen the faith of Christians across the world to withstand persecution and that they would find relief from violations of their religious freedom. Pray that persecuted believers remember Jesus' teaching in John 16:20: "Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." May they cling to His promise: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b).

Pray that God would protect, comfort, and encourage new Christian converts from Muslim backgrounds and that they would be a witness to their own families and communities who often reject them when they become Christians. Pray they would be "light and salt" to their own families and friends (Matthew 5:13).

Pray for wisdom and encouragement for the growing Christian community in China as they encounter threats, intimidation, and communist indoctrination from their government. Pray that the underground church will find hope in Jesus's promise that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20).

Pray for the protection of Christians, including Muslim-background believers, in Northeast Syria who

now face the possibility of military conflict, displacement, and targeting by jihadist forces. Pray they treasure Christ and His Word and remember that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Pray that the underground church in North Korea knows they are not alone, and for a fresh wind of the Spirit's power to come over that land. Pray that the final words of the Great Commission—"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"—will strength North Korean Christians as they persevere in their faith (Matthew 28:20).

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

(from https://www.frc.org/get.cfm?c=REMEMBER_PERSECUTED)

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: LarryMcKahan, John Lewis,

George Burgess, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Monday, November 4

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, November 6

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Thursday, November 7

Senior Adult Event.....10 am

FBC, Saint Joseph

Sunday, November 10, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Ken Nice, Dillon Burgess

Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: LeRoy Bush

Evening Worship6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 13

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

November 3 — Daylight Saving Time ends

November 4 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

November 7 — Senior Adult Event—FBC, Saint Joseph

November 13 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

**November 24—Church Thanksgiving Dinner
and Business Meeting—noon (date change)**

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. Come study together with our church family as we continue to study *The Ten Commandments*.

**Wednesday Night Prayer
and Bible Study**

This week we will begin a new study. Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Israel Report

November 10th during the morning worship time Pastor Allan and Ellen will be sharing information from their recent trip to Israel. Don't miss it!

Operation Christmas Child

Collection Week:

November 18-25

Our Collection day is Sunday, November 17

**Urgent Prayer Need
Youth Sunday School
Teacher**

Praise the Lord! One person has already expressed a sense of God's call, but it's a big job. It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God may be calling you, too!

For more information,
talk to Bro. Allan.

SJBA Senior Adult Event

First Baptist Church
Saint Joseph
November 7 at 10:00 am

***Prayer
Warriors***

*November 13, 2019
10:00 am*

**THANKSGIVING DINNER AND
BUSINESS MEETING**

We will have our
Thanksgiving Dinner and
regular business meeting
immediately following the
morning worship service

Sunday, November 24. Plan to attend this special fellowship.

For the Record-

Attendance: October 27, 2019

Sunday School.....	29
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	30

Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	50
Sunday Youth Trip	12
Sunday Night	N/A
Children's Worship	10
Wednesday Night	4

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,415.55
Long Family – October	\$ 115.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Toni Wyrick

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel

13...Shirley Wilson

14...Ann Riddle

16...Nancy McCamy

22...Linda Dotson

23...Floetta Conard

27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn

November 3, 1995

Jack and Flo Conard

November 4, 1956

Jim and Brigida Winans

November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

Jim and Brigida Winans

Carl Conard—Jack's cousin

Ryan Hutcherson—LoLeta's grandson

John Lewis

Ruth Anne Bush

Mike Green—ankle surgery

Jack and Flo Conard

Bill Dunn, Donna's husband

Sharon Russell—George's sister
June Fritchle
Gary Hurst—cancer
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Tim Waters
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Sharri Duty
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Betty Campbell Nellie Reynolds
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
