**Wisdom Truths**

The only part of the Bible that works for you is the part you believe.

The Holy Spirit is **not a thing or an it**, He is a person. He talks all the time. He requires no explanation of your behavior. He knows you better than anyone else.

**Deut 4:36** explains why God made us. For conversation.

*Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.*

What Peter did not become, walking next to Jesus, in the 3 ½ years, he became in a single day when the Holy Spirit entered him.

* I have struggled with these pre-arranged lessons
* The job of a pastor differs a bit from the job of an evangelist
  + Evangelists main job is to seek the lost
  + Pastors main job is to grow up the believer
* I was reminded this morning that THIS IS NOT MY MINISTRY
  + I am an extension of Pastor David’s ministry
  + **Isaiah 55:11**

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

**It is NOT my WORD, it is God’s Word and it WILL do what HE wants it to!**

**LUKE 15**

**Let’s Look at these Scriptures from the Standpoint of the “Lost Things” being those who ARE or WERE part of the Christian family.**

**- What Initiated the Telling of these Parables?**

**Back up to**

**Luke 14**

25Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be **My disciple**. ~~28~~~~For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has~~ *~~enough~~* ~~to finish~~ *~~it~~*~~—~~ ~~29~~~~lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see~~ *~~it~~* ~~begin to mock him,~~ ~~30~~~~saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’?~~ ~~31~~~~Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?~~ ~~32~~~~Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.~~ 33So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

**JESUS WANTS MORE THAN FOR YOU JUST TO BELIEVE AND BE SAVED. HE WANTS ALL OF YOU! HE WANTS YOU TO BE HIS DISCIPLE – TO BE LIKE HIM – TO DO WHAT HE DID – EXACTLY HOW HE DID IT.**

**Tasteless Salt Is Worthless**

34“Salt *is* good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? 35It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, *but* men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**Jesus was teaching and OH how the Pharisees hated what He taught!**

I. (15:1-2) THE PROBLEM JESUS EXPERIENCED

A. *ATTRACTION* (v. 1) – Jesus attracted sinners while Pharisees repelled them. Lost people flocked to Jesus, not because He catered to them or compromised His message but because He cared for them. It was bad enough to welcome and teach them but He even ate with them, a sign of acceptance! They felt comfortable in His company.

B. *ACCUSATION* (v. 2) – Jesus persistently antagonized the religious self-righteous. They muttered that Jesus attracted the outcasts. They prided themselves on being separated from such lowlifes. The Pharisees stepped on sinners and tossed them aside as trash but Jesus picked them up and cherished them as diamonds. Their outrage at Jesus is what sets off this whole chapter.

C. *The Pharisees’ ATTITUDE* prompts Jesus to tell three parables on lostness that gives us glimpses of His grace and three never-before-seen views of what happens in heaven when sinners are saved and the lost find their way home. These parables contrast God’s attitude toward lost sinners versus the Pharisees!

**Why did the Pharisees hate what Jesus taught so badly?**

**Darkness FLEES when light comes. Were the Pharisees in darkness? Were they spreading darkness?**

**A. The Sheep**

**1. What do you think was the emotion of the shepherd before the sheep was found?**

***FEAR – WORRY ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THAT SHEEP – WHAT WOULD HIS BOSS SAY – FINANCIAL LOSS –***

**2. What would have been the result of not finding the sheep?**

***(Losing his job) THE SHEEP WOULD BE ATTACKED AND DIE – WOULD BE A SMALLER HEARD - WOULD BE LESS INCOME – LESS FOOD ON THE SHEPHERD’S TABLE***

**3. Why would one sheep out of a whole flock made a difference?**

***JUST LIKE IN OUR FAMILIES, EVERY ONE IS IMPORTANT! EVERY ONE IS LOVED! EVERY ONE HAS A DISTINCT PURPOSE AND PART OF WHICH WE RELY!***

**B. The Coin (A full day’s wage – most people bartered so there weren’t many coins – tithes used to be paid with chickens and hogs)**

**1. What do you think was the emotion of the woman before finding the coin?**

**ABSOLUTE FEAR OF WHERE THE RENT OR FOOD WOULD COME FROM – LOSE HER CAR – NO UTILITIES – ETC.**

**2. What would have been the result of not finding the coin?**

**PROBABLY THE SAME AS ABOVE**

**3. What spiritual truths do you see in the emotions of the woman after finding the coin?**

**ABSOLUTE JOY – A WILLINGNESS TO SHARE HER JOY**

**C. The Son**

**1. What makes this story different from the other two?**

**DEALING WITH A PERSON, NOT A THING – HE LEFT HIS ESTABLISHED HOME**

**2. What are the different emotions exhibited by the characters? How did they change?**

**WE TEND TO LOOK DOWN MORE ON THE SON THAT LEFT. HIS SIN WAS MORE OUTWARD.**

***He found out that sin will always cost you more than you want to pay.***

**BOTH SONS SINNED (MISSED THE MARK)**

There was another brother there that day who was not celebrating. The OLDER brother illustrates all who are lost in their sin like the “Pharisees and the teachers of the Law” who fail to see their problem (18:11). You could say the elder brother illustrates the GOOD sinner who rebels inwardly. Please note that both brothers had the same father, lived under the same roof, enjoyed similar privileges, and both were rebels, sinners, and lost. The older brother did have some good qualities to commend him as seen in vv.25, 29. He was responsible and industrious as well as consistently obedient to his father’s requests. All good qualities, but all external. His issues were hidden on the inside. He reveals his true nature when he sulks outside, refusing to celebrate the return of his brother. In fact, he refers to the prodigal not as my brother, but as “your son” in v30. He was focused on his brother’s sin, not his own. He was an inside sinner, committing respectable sins, but just as lost. He reveals his pride and lack of compassion for his brother. His accusations against the father show that his obedience was legalism rather than service born out of a loving relationship with the father. The parable closes open-ended. We don’t know if this son who was lost “at home” repented and joined the party or not.