

SHOW US THE FATHER

- Our Word for 2022:

Fathers

A
Atmosphere – Awareness – Anticipation

M
Mothers

I
Investment - Involvement - Interaction

L
Look Around!

Y
You

- **John 14:1-12** 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!** So why are you asking me to show him to you?"
- **Very different contrast:**
- What is God really like? Some people think the most important question of life is "Do you believe in God?" But a more important question is "What kind of God do you believe in?"
 - Some people picture God as a task master who gets great joy out of disciplining His people when they make a mistake. He has a bunch of rules in force that no one believes they can accomplish so they feel that He is always mad at us and correcting us.
 - Others picture God as a buddy. He will forgive anything no matter what you do or how you act. In the end, all go to heaven because a loving God "would never send anyone to hell"

- **Luke 15:1-2** Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating (receives ESV, welcomes NIV) with such sinful people—even eating with them!
- A key to understanding any Scripture in the Gospels is to know what preceded it.
 - **Luke 4:14-30**
- 3 Groups of people – Tax Collectors, notorious sinners, Pharisees and teachers of the religious law!
 - **A Persistent Problem!**

It almost if there was an unspoken caste system!

- The Jewish culture was a shame/honor-driven society. Virtually everything done in Jewish culture brought either shame or honor.
- Eating with someone was considered covenantal!
- The Pharisees didn't think Jesus was seeking to live a pure and holy life because of those with whom he associated.
- 2 Questions for us to wrestle with as we look at these 2 parables!
 - What's the most important thing to you?
 - And what's the most important thing to God?

- **Luke 15:3-7** So Jesus told them this story: 4 "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. 6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' 7 In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!
- The pages of the Bible are filled with images of sheep and the shepherd. They appear at critical times in the story of God's people, and there is hardly another motif as rich in content.
- In Genesis 48:15, Jacob on his deathbed summarized his life with God saying God has been "the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day"

Ezekiel 34:7-16 "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 8 As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, you abandoned my flock and left them to be attacked by every wild animal. And though you were my shepherds, you didn't search for my sheep when they were lost. You took care of yourselves and left the sheep to starve. 9 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord. 10 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey.

11 "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. 12 I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. 13 I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. 14 Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. 16 I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice!

- **Psalm 23** speaks of God as the Good Shepherd.
- **John 10:14-16** "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.
- Amidst all of the images of shepherds and sheep, there is one constant in Scripture: you and I are always the sheep.
- The shepherd doesn't blame the sheep but instead has compassion for it.
- The Shepherd put himself in danger to leave the 99. Because he has compassion and concern for the sheep and the danger, harm and death it might face, he puts himself in harm's way.
- **For us, Jesus is the perfect Good Shepherd who puts himself in harms way taking the punishment we so richly deserved and goes to the cross to save us.**

- **Luke 15:8-10** "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."
- It is just a coin, I have 9 other ones, no big deal!
 - It is believed the coin could have represented a days wages!
 - Another explanation: 10 silver coins were bound together as a dowry and headdress for a woman to wear on her forehead for her wedding day and thereafter.



The coin meant more to her than the value of the precious silver. For her to lose it would be losing face in her community, and to become shameful before her husband. Thus upon losing any one coin, she must make a desperate search to find it again.

This was more than just trying to find an ordinary coin!

- **The Father's Heart:**

- Both parables highlighted the need to find the lost!
- Both demonstrated the determination to find the lost!
- Both expressed the joy and rejoicing when the lost are found!

- The religious leaders of the day had been indifferent toward the lost and even antagonistic toward them coming to Jesus.

- Jesus uses these two parables to illustrate how wrong their response was, **especially when compared to how they would have responded toward recovering something of far less value.**

- **They totally miss the Heart of the Father!**

- The one thing that matters most to God is the lost, so much so that when the lost are found, even one of them, all heaven rejoices and throws a party! There is more joy over one sinner coming to Jesus than over 99 people being right where they're supposed to be with God.

- So what about us? Is finding the lost the most important thing in our life as it is for God? Do we have a compassion and burden so great for the lost that we are willing to go to any length and to great risk to find them?
- An Unlikely Hero
 - <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2015/09/the-marine-who-found-two-wtc-survivors.html>

Matt Chandler writes, “In the same way but to an infinitely greater degree, God took off his royal robes, stepped into our dark and depraved culture, and served us. We were buried in the depths and rubble of our own foolishness with zero chance of pulling ourselves out of our own sin. We were without hope until the Holy One clothed himself in humanity to rescue us, to become sin for us on the cross. Our service (to others) must be grounded in the truth of the Gospel... Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection for us. It begins and ends with Jesus – begins there because he is our original motivation and ends there because in Him we are empowered to serve (and save) others.” Amen and Amen