

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 40:1–11 *I love to do your will,
O my God.* (v8)

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, & eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors & sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees & the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners & eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, & go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends & his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp & sweep the house & seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends & neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare this lesson with the one that follows in *Luke 15:11-32 esp. vv24, 32*. By the way, who is the audience for all three parables (vv1-3)? What themes/ ideas/ teachings unite these parables?
2. How does repentance (*cf. vv7, 10*) work in *Numbers 21:4-9*? Use your study Bible’s notes.

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Notice how the return (which symbolizes repentance) in both stories is initiated by the main characters (whose joy symbolizes God’s own). How was God at work searching you out & preparing you for repentance before you repented of something? *See Psalm 51; Romans 2:3-5; 2 Corinthians 7:8-13; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Peter 3:9*
4. The lamp (v8b) reminds us of *John 1:4-5, 9, 8:12; Psalm 119:105*. How is the light of Christ necessary for your own repentance? Where are you “closing your eyes” to this light? *See Luke 12:2; John 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:11-13; Job 24:13-17*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. When someone returns to faithful living (including worship, giving, prayer, fellowship, etc.) How are they met by their old congregation? With joy, skepticism, disdain, sarcasm (“welcome back; it’s about time”) exaltation (let’s give you leadership/authority), recruitment (join the committee), condescension, ignored like nothing happened, “time traveling” (acting like nothing changed in between), friendship, something else? How can you be generous & gracious toward these found ones, without being naive?
6. Repentance requires confronting one’s “thoughts, words, & deeds” & “things done & left undone.” It includes a transformed mind (*cf. Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10*). Who is God prayerfully revealing to you that needs your generous, gracious support?

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Festival of the Holy Cross

09.14.25

Series: At the Teacher's Feet

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Parabolic Teachings for Today

The Found Ones

Is it like that time you found a \$5 bill in your jeans pocket after the wash?

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (v9)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(*Galatians 6:14*)

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