

To Seek and To Save the Lost

Luke 15:1-10; 19:1-10

1. One Observation About Religion

All religions divide people into two groups:

- a. _____
- b. _____

2. Two Truths About Jesus

- a. Jesus loves to _____ the lost
- b. Jesus loves to _____ the lost

3. Three Applications For Us

- a. We need relationships **and** _____.
- b. We need to seek the lost of _____ kinds.
- c. We should regularly expect and experience gospel _____.

Quotes and References

All through Luke, outsiders are in and insiders are out. Tax collectors, prostitutes, Gentiles, Samaritans, children, sinners, younger sons – all are in. Teachers of the Law, scribes, Pharisees, lawyers, the dutifully religious, the socially respected, older sons – all are out. Several scholars appropriately suggest that Luke 19.10 should be seen as a one-verse summary of the gospel: “For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.”

There is indeed a reversal – God prefers the poor, the weak, the despised. What religious people have difficulty in admitting is that Jesus prefers sinners to the “righteous.” In today’s terms, Jesus came to seek and save hookers, pimps, dishonest CEOs, welfare dependents, convicted felons, liberal journalists, drug addicts, the homeless, the smelly, disenfranchised ethnic minorities, social rejects.

Dane Ortlund, *Defiant Grace*

Jesus never apologized for getting on the inside with outsiders. It was his mission. What kind of doctor refuses to see patients? What kind of farmer refuses to get his hands dirty? What kind of church has no place for sinners?

Jesus neither condoned sin, left people in their sin, nor communicated any disdain for sinners. Jesus was not passive, just waiting for people to get their act together. And neither was he passive about confronting sin.

No one in the history of the world has been more inclusive of the sinner than Jesus. And no one has been more intolerant of sin. A friend of sinners and yet no friend of sin. Amazing.

Kevin DeYoung, *A Friend of Sinners and No Friend of Sin*