

GOD'S LOST & FOUND DEPARTMENT

THE PASSAGE

Luke 15:1-32

A TOUGH QUESTION:

Why do you hang around, accommodate & welcome **sinners**?

Luke 15:1-2/ Psalm 1:1

A SIMPLE ANSWER:

Because they are **mine** and I want them **back**

Luke 15:1-2/ Luke 5:31-32 & 1 Timothy 1:15/ Genesis 12:1-3 & Exodus 19:1-8/ 1 John 2:2

Four Observations:

(1) It's what you would do
with a **wandering lamb**
Luke 15:3-7

(2) It's what you would do
if you **lost a hundred bucks**
Luke 15:8-10

(3) It's what you would do
if your **rebellious son came back**
Luke 15:11-32

(4) You have no reason to be **bent out of shape**
Luke 15:31-32

THREE THINGS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND

THE **HEART** OF GOD

Ezekiel 33:11/ Romans 5:8-10

THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF REBELLION

Luke 15:31-32 & 2 Samuel 12:13-14 & 1 Corinthians 3:10-15/ John 3:16/ 1 Timothy 1:15

THE **STUPIDITY & SELFISHNESS** OF THE OLDER BROTHER

Luke 15:31-32/ Matthew 20:1-16/ Matthew 18:21-35

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THE _____ OF REBELLION

Luke 15:31-32 & 2 Samuel 12:13-14 & 1 Corinthians 3:10-15/ John 3:16/ 1 Timothy 1:15

THE _____ OF THE OLDER BROTHER

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Food for Thought

For the week of July 10, 2011

(Questions and scriptures for further personal study)

1. This weekend we saw three examples in scripture of the great lengths God goes to in order to see all come to know him. How do the following verses reinforce God's love and desire for all to know him?

1 Peter 3:9

Matthew 9:36

Ephesians 2:1-10

2. Similar to God's love for all, as followers of Christ we have also been given the privilege of modeling and helping others see how much God loves them and the importance of following Christ. What do the following verses tell you about how to go about making this kind of impact?

John 13:34

Colossians 4:5-6

Ephesians 5:15-21; 6:7

1 Peter 2:13-21; 3:15-16

Looking back at what you wrote, is there anything you need to add or change in your attitudes or actions to have this kind of Kingdom impact?

3. This week we saw how the obedient brother lost sight of all he had gained from his father through his life of obedience when he saw his prodigal brother being rewarded upon his return home. No doubt any longtime follower of Jesus can fall into a similar trap and miss the amazing grace God offers to all at any point in life (Matthew 20:1-16). We must also not miss the fact that God does reward obedience. How do the following verses affirm and motivate you to live a life of obedience?

Matthew 16:27

1 Corinthians 3:8-15

Colossians 3:23-25

2 John 4:8