

## **WITW – 12 May**

### **Luke 14:25-15**

#### **1. Luke 14:25-34 The Cost of Being a Disciple**

- “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father, mother, wife, children, his brothers and sister, yes, even his own life, cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (14:26-27)
- love for family is to be surpassed by love for Jesus
- there is cost involved in being a disciple – Jesus does not hide that fact
- cost is often relationships, but also other costs
- “Do not be deceived, Wormwood. Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy's will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.” C. S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

#### **2. Luke 15 : The Parables of Lost Things – a lost sheep, a lost coin and two lost sons.**

- three words that are part of all these parables – lost, found, rejoice (celebration)
- 2 groups of people gathered – “tax collectors and sinners” and “Pharisees and teachers of the law”
- Both were lost – but pharisees and teachers of the law didn't know they were lost

##### **Parable 1: The Shepherd searching for his lost sheep**

- Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:11, Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15
- This sheep has wandered off
- This shepherd goes to great lengths to make sure the one is found

##### **Parable 2: The woman has lost a coin**

- a coin – lifeless, unaware it is lost, unable to find itself
- the lost are important to God
- often unaware of our lostness – we cannot find ourselves and save ourselves. We are dependent on a loving God diligently and persistently searching for us
- the lost are important to God

##### **Parable 3: “The prodigal son” or “the forgiving father” or “the story of two lost sons and the father”**

- “The Prodigal God” by Tim Keller
- “prodigal” means “recklessly spendthrift” – to spend until you have nothing left
- The younger son wanted his father's goods, but not his father

- The father was recklessly extravagant in his love as he welcomed the repentant son, he refused to count his sin against him or demand repayment
- 2 brothers – each alienated from God, one in blatant rebellious sin, the other in religiosity, legalistic obedience – with no understanding of the father's heart
- younger brother is represented in the tax collectors and sinners, the older brother represents the Pharisees and teachers of the Law
- "Jesus shows the father pouncing on his son in love not only before he has a chance to clean up his life and evidence a change of heart, but even before he can recite his repentance speech... the Father's love and acceptance are absolutely free." Tim Keller
- the moralistic older brother – religious, self-righteous – but we discover by the end of the story that he is just as lost as the other son
- This son also wanted the father's goods but not his father
- we can seem very close but in fact be like the older brother, the Pharisees – religious and judgemental and more concerned about our own status.
- Religion says, "If I obey, I am accepted." The gospel says, "Because I am accepted, I can obey."

"We will never stop being the younger brother or elder brothers until we acknowledge our need, rest by faith, and gaze in wonder at the work of Jesus." Tim Keller (Prodigal God)