

Lost, yet Found

Why do so many people in today's society complain about feeling lost? Even if one is relatively successful, well-liked, and has a comfortable lifestyle, the chances are they feel like something is missing. Perhaps they even feel lost, like their life has no clear direction. They search and search, grasping for something that will fulfill them, but never truly become satisfied. Wealth, fame, love, etc., the list of things people fervently seek keeps on going, but the one thing that they all have in common is that they are all temporary. They may briefly provide contentment, but more often than not, they leave one feeling even more empty and lost than before. So, the problem with searching for something to fill the emptiness is actually pretty simple: nothing can. Well, at least nothing earthly can.

In Luke chapter 15, Luke recounts several parables that Jesus told those who were listening. Originally, a group of tax collectors and sinners had been listening to Jesus teach, but the scribes and the Pharisees began criticizing Jesus for even interacting with them. To the scribes and the Pharisees, tax collectors and sinners represented the lowest of the low and were not worthy enough to be saved. To teach the scribes and Pharisees that no one person, or group, was beneath Jesus' attention and the gospel he told them three parables: the parable of the lost coin, the parable of the lost sheep, and the parable of the prodigal son.

In the parable of the lost coin, the woman who loses a coin looks and looks until she finds it and when she does, she calls all of her friends together to celebrate. Similarly, in the parable of the lost sheep, a man who has one hundred sheep loses one. So, he leaves the ninety-nine to search for the one who is missing (Luke 15:4). In this parable, Jesus is the shepherd and we are the sheep. Anyone who is spiritually lost is the sheep who is missing. This parable illustrates that everyone, no matter their social status, wealth, or sinfulness, is important to Jesus. In fact, according to Luke 15:7, this makes

them even more valuable when they come to Jesus— "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7). How great is it that we serve a Master who is willing to come after us no matter what!

Next, Jesus tells the story of the prodigal son. In this parable, a man has two sons among who he will divide his property and wealth between. The younger son decides that he does not want to wait until his father passes away to receive his inheritance, so he demands to have it immediately. The father complies and gives the younger son his share of the inheritance. Later, the younger son moves away, spends all of the money until he has nothing, and is eventually reduced to eating out of a pig's trough. Soon the son resolves to return home and beg his father to let him work as a servant because he believes "[he] is no longer worthy to be called [his] son" (Luke 15:21). Much to the younger son's surprise, his father eagerly greets him and organizes a feast to welcome him home. The older son becomes jealous that the father is celebrating the return of the son who "devoured [his] livelihood with harlots (Luke 15:30)," but the father explains that he had to celebrate because "[his] brother was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (Luke 15:32). This parable perfectly displays how we, as sinners, are received when we are "found" (i.e. when we become spiritually secure).

So, what can actually give direction to those who feel lost in life? What can fill the emptiness that many may be feeling? Psalms 46:10 says "Be still and know that I am God..." Being still and listening to God's word will lead us to the one thing that can truly satisfy us permanently: Jesus. Without him, we are dead and lost, like the prodigal son was when he left home. However, in Proverbs 8:35 it says "For whoever finds me finds life..." Jesus is life; in him we are alive and found!

Emma Tribbey

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Leopoldo Lizardo, Becky Matthews, Cheryl Neilans, Dale Privett, Titus and Emily Smith and unborn child, Susie Tomlin, Edith Toney.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Vera Cornell and her family at the death of Edwin. Due to current conditions, the family will have a private service Wednesday at 1:00. There is a public viewing on Monday and Tuesday from 1:00-4:00 at Clark's in Neosho.

 **Every "One" Counts:** Until we meet again, the way we collect this money may change, but there is money set aside for those in need. During this time, you may know someone who needs help. If so, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Our elders are staying current on the **corona virus** issue. They are talking about it with professionals and are praying about how to best serve and support our members during this difficult time. We will not be meeting together at this time. Please join us on the website or on Facebook for Bible lessons on Sundays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The **young adults' retreat** is postponed until the fall.

We are available in the **office** each morning from 8:30 and 11:30. Just ring the doorbell in front if we can be of service to you or call the office at 425-2724.

Thank you for sending your **contributions** last week. You may still mail them or drop them off at the building.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: Danny Boggs

PM: Danny Boggs

It has a new look! Check out our updated **website**, www.neoshochurchofchrist.org.

During this time while many are staying at home, there are **resources** available to you that may give you knowledge and grant you comfort from listening to sermons or reading articles.

- PTP365. These are lessons from Polishing the Pulpit. Go go 365.polishingthepulpit.com, user name: Hillcrest Church of Christ, password: Hillcrest.
- Christian Courier has articles on many different topics. Just go to their website and search for a topic.
- Our website has all numerous past sermons, including gospel meetings and the ladies day. You can also listen to singing anytime our services are not being broadcast.
- Caleb has sent the youth group some additional links.

The **Lads to Leaders** convention was canceled, but our kids had already completed a number of activities. Emma Tribbey wrote the insightful article on the front page and was awarded second place for it. Annie Flint also earned a second place award with a PowerPoint presentation. Jonathan Tribbey wrote an article that received second place, and we will publish it in the bulletin soon.

We pray that things are enough normalized soon for us to be meeting together, and we **look forward** to camp ten weeks from now and VBS in less than three months!



PRAYER LEADERS

When we are able to assemble together again, this area will contain the names of those men who will lead us in prayer. If you had a Wednesday evening assignment, those will be continued in the order that was given in the March assignments as soon as we are able to meet together again.

RECORDS	3-29-20	3-31-19
Bible Study		129
AM Worship		182
PM Worship		131
Wednesday		126
Contribution	\$7,216.90	\$14,556.50
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37