

God Is Looking For You

These two parables in Luke describe the desire of God to find all of his lost sheep and all of his lost coins. The common threads in both parables are :

1. Something is lost
2. A search is carried out
3. The item is found
4. Friends are gathered for a celebration!

God is intent upon finding those lost coins and sheep, so much so that God incorporates all of his people into the search party.

When you answer the call to become a Christian something wonderful happens. First there is a celebration in heaven because you who were once lost are now found. Then you become part of the search party to find other precious possessions of God that are lost. From then on each time you help find one of the missing lost coins or sheep, you get to be part of celebration. With each find the search party grows bigger until eventually there will be no more lost coins or sheep, there will be just a perpetual celebration.

That in a nutshell is the plan of God for the world. The entire human population of the world is God's prized possession. Because God loves us and wants us to love God in return, God does not force us to remain under His protection but allows us free will. We can do whatever we want to do. Unfortunately, because we are not as wise as God, often what we choose to do is harmful to us and to others and is not motivated by selfless love. That is when we become lost. Instead of just deciding to let us go and forget about us, God sends out others to look for us. The search party includes other people, angels, and Jesus Christ.

It's when we realize that we are lost that we become found. That's the beauty of God's plan for us. When we repent of the thoughts or actions that made us lose our way in the first place, we become found, and the celebration begins. Each time we gather together in worship it's as if we are having a celebration for those who have been found.

There is one other common point in both the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin. In both parables, the found items are not punished for getting lost! I know that sounds silly, how do you punish a coin? But what is implied here is there is more emphasis on the finding of the coin and the sheep than there is on how they got lost in the first place. What that means for us simply is that when we repent and return to God, the past is forgotten. God doesn't even whisper an "I told you so".

These parables leave us with two simple choices. We can either become the object of God's search for His lost ones; or we can be part of the search party that celebrates each time a lost one is found. It's up to you. Help Jesus find lost sheep, or be one of the lost.

Will you choose today to join the search party?