

GRACE NOTES

Message: People Matter & Jesus Saves

Scriptures: Luke 15:1-10

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Study Notes --

Have you ever lost something important? How did you respond to the loss?

There are people that truly matter to you. How do they know they matter? How do you show they matter?

Thinking back to Sunday's service, what spoke to you, inspired you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you?

Read **Luke 15:1-2.**

A great many people came to hear Jesus. What was the attitude of the religious leaders who came?

Consider what the Pharisees said about Jesus. Do we ever share that same attitude about how believers engage the world?

How can believers be IN the world but not OF the world?

Read **Luke 15:3-7.**

Does the fact that the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to find the one mean that he values the one more than the ninety-nine? If not, what might Jesus mean?

How does the attitude of the shepherd compare to God's attitude when a sinner repents?

Why does Jesus add to the story the part about inviting the neighbors to share in the rejoicing?

Read **Luke 15:8-10.**

How does the attitude of the woman in the story compare with that of the shepherd in the previous story?

Read **John 14:6.**

If this statement is true, what does it say about the Christian faith?

If this statement is true, how does it impact our call to pray for the lost and share the message of Jesus with them?