

HOW MUCH YOU MATTER TO GOD
The Miracle of Mercy – Part 6
May 21, 2017

Titus 3:5 (NIV) *“Jesus saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”*

Luke 19:10 (NLT) *“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”*

Being lost implies value.

Jesus told 3 stories to explain what he meant:

“The Lost Sheep” (Luke 15:1-7)

“The Lost Coin” (Luke 15:8-10)

“The Lost Son” (Luke 15:11-32)

WHAT DO YOU LOSE WHEN YOU’RE SPIRITUALLY LOST?

Like a lost sheep...

- 1. You lose your direction.**

Isaiah 53:6a (NCV) *“We all have wandered away like sheep; each of us has gone his own way.”*

- 2. You lose your protection.**

Zechariah 10:2b (NLT) *“So My people are wandering like lost sheep; they are attacked because they have no shepherd.”*

Like a lost coin...

- 3. You lose your potential.**

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

Like the lost son...

- 4. You lose your happiness.**

Luke 15:14 (MSG) *“After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt.”*

- 5. You lose your home in heaven.**

Luke 9:25 (NIV) *“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?”*

You don’t ever lose your value!

HOW DOES GOD'S MERCY SAVE YOU?

1. Salvation rescues you from yourself.

1 Timothy 2:5 (CEV) *“There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. Jesus was truly human, and He gave Himself to rescue all of us.”*

2. Salvation recovers your potential.

Matthew 11:28 (NLT) *“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’ ”*

Joel 2:25 (GNT) *“I will give you back what you lost in the years when swarms of locusts ate your crops.”*

3. Salvation reconnects you to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18a (NIV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.”*

HOW DO YOU RECONNECT WITH GOD'S MERCY?

1. Get fed up with your life.

Luke 15:13-17 (NIV) *“He squandered his wealth in wild living... he spent everything... he began to be in need... he longed to fill his stomach... he finally came to his senses.”*

Jeremiah 29:13 (MSG) *“When you come looking for Me, you'll find Me. Yes, when you get serious about finding Me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed.”*

2. Own up to your sin.

Luke 15:17a&18 (NIV) *“When he came to his senses, he said... ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.’ ”*

3. Offer up yourself.

Luke 15:12 (NIV) *“Father, give me my share of the estate.”*

Luke 15:19 (NIV) *“Make me like one of your hired servants.”*

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

Luke 15:20 (NIV) *“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”*