

The Foundry Church

# Devotions Day 1

## *THE LOST SON*

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### A Story

#### **Luke 15:11-32**

**11-12** Then Jesus said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

**12-16** “So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and

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dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

**17-20** “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

**20-21** “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ***Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.***

**22-24** “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

**25-27** “All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

**28-30** ***“The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in.*** His father came out and tried to talk to him, but

he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!'

**31-32** "His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

## Who are you in the story?

Jesus was the greatest teacher. To help people understand truths about God, he often told stories. Some Bible translations call these stories parables. Here, in the good news recorded by Luke, Jesus tells a story about a family. ***Who did you identify with the most?***

### ***The Younger Son:***

Have you rejected or run away from what God has taught you? Were you convinced that you knew better, only to find yourself out of money, out of friends, and out of any self worth? Have you discovered that living for yourself; doing *whatever* you want *whenever* you want, isn't all it's cracked up to be? Sometimes, in His great mercy, God lets us hit rock bottom. He knows that for some people, that is the only way to bring them back to relationship with Him.

Just know this: you may have rejected God, but He is waiting for you to return. He has always loved you, and continues to love you as he waits. When you turn back to Him, he will joyfully receive you back into the family- as a son or daughter. Just come home.

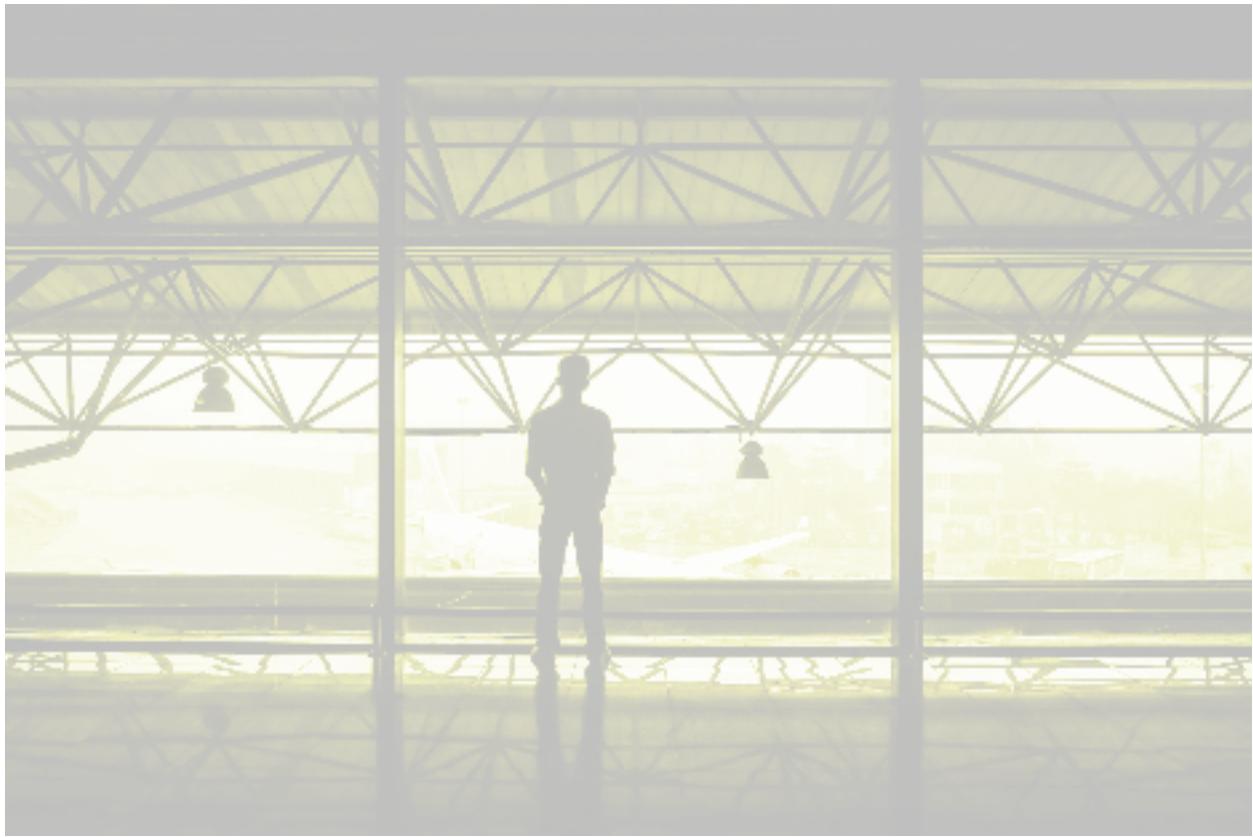


### ***The Older Son:***

Have you followed all the rules? Have you been faithful, hardworking, obedient and respectful to your Heavenly Father *and* to those who he has put in authority to you? Are you a little miffed that someone who has been unfaithful, lazy, disobedient and

disrespectful in life, is now allowed back into the family of God, and in the church with you?

Consider this truth. Your behavior is not what won you God's approval in the first place. You were saved from sin by Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross. You have the blessing of a relationship with the Father, and continue to have it because of who the Father is. Enjoy that relationship with your heavenly Father, and celebrate the new relationship you can have with the one who has returned!



### ***The Father:***

The Father in this story represents our heavenly Father. While none of us feel like we can identify with Him - it should actually be our goal! We have been forgiven so much ourselves, how wonderful it is when we have the opportunity to welcome someone else the way we were first welcomed by God. If you have the chance to show someone else the unconditional, forgiving love of God; don't miss it!

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# Devotions Day 2

## *Lost Things*

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### **Read Luke Chapter 15**

The story of the prodigal son is not the only story Jesus told that day. There were two other stories; one about a lost coin and the other about a lost sheep. In the lost coin, a widow searched every nook and cranny of her house until she found her coin, and then celebrated with her neighbors. In the lost sheep, the good shepherd left 99 gathered sheep to go and find the one that was lost out in the wilderness. Just as the father of the prodigal son threw a party to celebrate his child's return, Jesus said there is a celebration in heaven when one who is lost in sin, comes back to our Father in Heaven.

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**Think of the last thing you searched for.**

**What was it?**

*Car keys?*

*A pet?*

*Your cell phone?*



It's amazing how hard I will look for an object, such as my phone or the television remote. Those are just things! Why don't I look for lost people with the same urgency on a daily basis? Is it not as important to me?

It is to God. These parables show that those who are lost matter deeply to Him. The three stories display three important principles we must learn from. In the story of the lost coin, the widow searched tirelessly. She did not give up until she found her prize. In the story of the lost sheep, we see that the shepherd puts what is lost on top of his priority list, even leaving those that are penned up for the night. In the third story, the Father waits patiently, and does not give up hope. Imagine how silly the rest of the family and neighbors thought he was, waiting on the porch night after night, gazing into the distance to catch the first glimpse of his lost son. We can apply these principles to our lives, taking on God's heart for the lost.

### **Search Tirelessly**

Don't give up when your first invitation to a non-christian to join you at church is shot down. Don't throw in the towel when your tenth attempt to share your faith seems unreceived. Keep praying, and keep reaching out to those who are in desperate need of God.

### **Make it a Priority**

Think about where you spend your energy, time and money. Consider where seeking the lost, and sharing the gospel lands on your priority list. How can you make adjustments if needed?

## Hope

**Romans 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

Pray for those who are separated from God, and remain hopeful. Keep looking for them to return, so at the right opportunity you can run to them. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's love for the world around you, and hope in His power to transform it.