

Jesus said “Today salvation has come to this house... for the Son of Man came to see and to save the lost”.
How should the father’s attitude in the parable help us in our mission as a church?

Pray

As we have thought about problems in families pray for for particular situations members of the group face - for repentance, forgiveness and love.

Pray that we would have a concern for the lost like that of Jesus, willing to reach out to them whoever they are, to forgive, and rejoice in repentance.

Pray for the work to put in extra toilets. For obtaining permission, deciding on when the work begins and arrangements whilst the work is being done. Pray for grant applications and particularly the families ministry that with the solid basis of money pledged we would soon be able to go ahead.

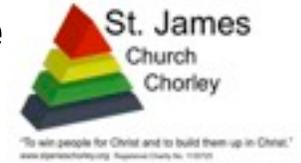
Don't forget there are lots of other things to pray for in the monthly prayer diary and sheets handed out at central prayer meetings.

*David Phillips,
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Jesus' teaching in Luke

Week 3

Lost things found



Luke 15 contains three parables that go together. We will read the first two and then the third.

Read Luke 15.1-10

1. What was it that led Jesus to tell these parables?
2. Why did the Scribes and Pharisees say what they did? Is it possible for Christians to fall into the same way of thinking and if so how can we guard against it?
3. What is the concluding point in both these first two parables?
4. Briefly, have you had similar experiences, of losing something important which eventually you found? What did you feel when it was found?
5. Does it excite you to see people come to Christ? If not why not?

6. Do you have the same concern as Jesus for those that are lost? If not why not?

7. If we don't have such concern for the lost how can we expect the joy of them being found?

Read Luke 15.11-32

8. As an aside to the main point of the parable in what ways do we see here a family with problems and hurts?

It is hard to imagine any family which doesn't have its own problems and hurts. If there are things that are particularly difficult at the present then pray for them at the end.

The younger brother

9. What parallels are there between the younger brother and those who are "sinners", or "lost" or who have rejected Christ?

10. In verses 7 and 10 what is it that causes joy in heaven?

11. In what ways do we see the younger brother's repentance? Why is repentance important? Are we tempted sometimes to go light on sin and repentance in order not to put people off?

The older brother

12. The parable is clearly told against the Pharisees and Sadducees and for the benefit of us all. What parallel is Jesus drawing; on one side the two brothers, on the other the Pharisees and sinners?

14. What good grounds did the older brother have for being cross about what had happened? Do you feel any sympathy with him?

13. Why were the Pharisees resentful of those Jesus was welcoming? Do you think they saw them as brothers?

14. Can we fall into the same way of thinking? If so, remembering what we saw at the end of the first study from Luke 6.49, how can we make sure we don't just hear Jesus's words but do them?

The Father

15. In such circumstances do you think you would have been able to forgive and welcome back the son in the way the father did?

16. What is the parallel Jesus is drawing here with our heavenly Father? The first two parables talk about joy in heaven, how is the joy shown in what the father did? 17. Our motto text for this year comes from later in Luke (19v9-10):