

Easter Outreach – Come Home

Introduction

This Easter Celebration let's once again focus on the very reason Jesus came and the purpose of His life, death and Resurrection .

We are all children of God, no matter how we are described – believers or non-believers, Christians or non-Christians – we belong to God. Therefore in the eyes of God we (the children of God) are either at home (in His house) or we are not; some of us are found and some are lost. He loves us all and He really wants those who are lost to be found.

Therefore the life & mission and death & Resurrection of Jesus is about the “lost” – it's about the missing-that what Jesus came to the world to do – search & rescue and to find & to restore those who are not with the Father.

Key Verse – Luke 19 : 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost

Discussion

In Luke 15 : 1 – 20, these three stories emphasize that the Easter celebration is not about us – it's about the “lost”, for there is a greater intensity to show how vulnerable are those who are missing.

1) All can be redeemed –

v1 – v7tax collectors and “sinners”..... in this story we noted how quick the Pharisees forgot they too were sinners. They did not want to associate with those “sinners”. What about us? Do we stay away from the “lost” or do we always try to one more “lost sheep” to Christ? How wonderfully blessed for that one ‘lost sheep’ who “once was lost and is now found”....for there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one non-believer or one sinner who repents....

2) No one is rejected -

v8 – v11.....Jesus gave the example about the woman who lost one silver coin. Perhaps she was unmarried or a widow because she called only friends and neighbours not husband and children to celebrate with her....Jesus was speaking about the ‘rejects’ or marginalised or those shunned by society. That one coin was so precious to the woman. The rejected, marginalised poor (in spirit) are so precious to Jesus. What are we doing to bring the good news to the “poor”? Jesus wants us to be His witness and tell others of His love. Then we would help these people find what is ‘lost’ in their lives – maybe their self worth, maybe hope in the future, if we take the effort to show them the love and care that we have from Jesus and show them that knowing Jesus is knowing forgiveness (Gal 5: 1)

3) Taking The Step

v11 - v 20the lost son, swayed by the attractions of the world – ‘physical lost’ – Jesus was not only referring to those who have not yet accepted Him as Saviour. He was referring also to Christians who may be physically in church yet do not have a relational connection with the Father in heaven. When the prodigal son “came to his senses” i.e. when a person receives Jesus as Lord and Saviour, he/she is restored by Jesus and wants to go home (v20 TLB) and that is **exactly** what God wants – for all people to return home. We can help by showing the poor the love and care of the father, and assure them that God the Father is not angry nor He will He punish indefinitely but is ready to forgive immediately when we repent.

Conclusion

Through each of these stories the Holy Spirit may remind us of someone who is “lost” like a sheep that needs rescue or “desperate” like the woman who needs acceptance and support or “rebellious” like the son who needs persevering prayers, patience and unconditional love. Reach out to them as the ambassador of Christ.

This is what Easter is all about.... Jesus came to seek – to look for and to find those who are lost – He wants them to come home and how great will the rejoicing in heaven be when we bring one more person for Jesus.