

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

living and loving like Jesus

lost & found

2 June 2019

Key Scriptures

Luke 15
Hosea 1-3

Talking through the message during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps.

Questions – Talking Points

- Were there any parts that need more clarification? What stood out? What did you not understand? What did you see in a new light?

Summary

In the parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, Jesus shows us a God who, out of his great love, goes after outcasts deprived of opportunities, safety and rights. Our perspective on what God is like deeply affects our relationship with him.

- Is God a distant, immovable being
or does Jesus give us a different view of God?

God is more upside down and different than many of us realize.

Read Luke 15

- What does it mean to say that God is our Great Shepherd?
 - Why is it so hard for religious insiders to see God as a shepherd?
 - Why is it so hard for outsiders to view God in this way?
- How does God as a shepherd challenge traditional views of God to which you have been exposed to in the past?
- What does it mean to say that God is like the woman who looks for the lost coin?
 - Why is it so hard to see God as a women searching for a coin?
- With whom or what do you relate to the most in these parables?
- Why does seeing God as the following, sometime distort our picture of God and how he views us:
 - “*immutable*” = “above all change”
 - “*impassible*” = “above all passion” (emotion/ suffering)
- How does the picture of Hosea and Gomer change your understanding of God’s love and his response to our running away?
- In what sense(s) do you understand the kingdom of God as a party?

This Week

- Interact and reflect over the above questions
- Get connected to a group to think through this text & questions together. Or invite a couple of folks over for coffee to do this.
- Read the scriptures for this week: **Matthew 7:24-29; Romans 12:1-2, 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:13-17; Ephesians 2:13-22**
- Develop the daily practice of **Read – Reflect – Pray – Live**

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