

THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

Part 5 - How Much You Matter to God

God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He gave up His only Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal life. **John 3:16** (AMPC)

I have come to SEEK and to SAVE those who are LOST. **Luke 19:10** (NLT)

IN LUKE 15, JESUS TOLD 3 STORIES TO EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LOST:

The Story of the Lost Sheep – (vv.1-7), the Lost Coin – (vv. 8-10), the Son (vv. 11-3).

- **LOST INVOLVES BEING _____ FROM GOD.**

*Jesus saved us, not because of the good things we did, but BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. **Titus 3:5***

*Listen. The Lord isn't too weak to save you. And he isn't getting deaf! He can hear you when you call! ² But the trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.... **Isaiah 59:1-2** (TLB)*

- **LOST, BUT SEARCHED FOR IMPLIES BEING _____ BY GOD.**

? WHAT HAPPENS TO ME WHEN I AM SPIRITUALLY LOST?

1. LIKE THE LOST _____ I AM _____.

- **Endangered because of _____.**

*All of us have strayed away just like lost sheep. We've all left God's path to follow our own ways. **Isaiah 53:6***

*O Eternal One, I know our lives are in Your hands. It is not in us to direct our own steps—we need You. **Jeremiah 10:23** (VOICE)*

- **Endangered because of _____.**

*My people are wandering like lost sheep, without a shepherd to protect and guide them. **Zechariah 10:2***

APPLICATION: My natural _____ can cause me to be lost.

2. LIKE THE LOST _____ I AM _____.

APPLICATION: My _____ can separate me from God.

3. LIKE THE LOST _____ I AM _____.

The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything. ¹⁷ So he had this moment of self-reflection: "What am I doing here? Back home, my father's hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death?" **Luke 15: 16, 17** (VOICE)

APPLICATION: My _____ choices can separate me from God.

4. LIKE ALL 3, I'M IN IMPERIL OF BEING LOST _____.

Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but are yourself lost? Of course not! **Luke 9:25** (GNB)

APPLICATION: It is essential that I _____.

NOTE: Being found _____ the consequences of being lost.

Come to me, all you who are weary and worn out from carrying too much. Learn to trust and rest in me and you'll recover your life." **Matthew 11:28**

Anyone who **connects** to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything becomes new. **2 Corinthians 5:17** (CEV)

? HOW DO I CONNECT WITH THE GOD'S MERCY?

1. I _____ TO NEEDING AND ACCEPTING HELP.

I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. **John 15:5** (MP)

2. I _____ WITH MY LIFE.

...he wasted it all...he had nothing left...he got desperate and hungry...then he finally came to his senses... **Luke 15:13-17**

You'll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else. **Jeremiah 29:13** (MSG)

3. I _____ TO MY SIN.

When he came to his senses, he said... ¹⁸ 'I have sinned against God and you...'

Luke 15:17-18 (NIV)

4. I _____ MYSELF TO GOD

The son drifted away saying "GIVE ME MY share..." ¹⁹ He returned to the Father saying "MAKE ME a servant." **Luke 15:12, 19** (NIV)

? HOW DOES THE FATHER RESPOND WHEN I RESPOND?

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; He ran out to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²²...the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. **Luke 15:20, 22-23** (NIV)