

## The Lost; Ezekiel 34:11-16

### I. Shepherds

- A. Ezekiel 34:1-10
- B. God is angry at Israel's religious leaders, the priests and levites
- C. He wants his people back
- D. Ezekiel 34:11; "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.
  - 1. Yes, it was the Lord who sent them off into captivity for their idolatry
  - 2. But the leaders failed to keep the law, they failed to teach the law, they failed God's people and God will require it of them
- E. The people do return to the Lord and He does release them from captivity
  - 1. They rebuild the wall of Jerusalem
  - 2. They rebuild the temple
  - 3. But they go astray again, this time into legalism, into power, into perceived Godliness
  - 4. Matthew 23:1-7; 1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.
- F. God must complete His plan of seeking out His people

### II. Lost and Found

- A. Luke 19:1-10
- B. This idea of seeking and saving the lost is best illustrated by the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son
- C. Sheep and Coin
  - 1. Luke 15:4; "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"
  - 2. Luke 15:8; "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?"
  - 3. Malaysian Airlines Flight 370
    - a) 7 Mar 2014 just before the final automated communication between the plane and satellite network, the Kuala Lumpur Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre is activated (the search starts)
    - b) Australia takes over the search in October 2014 (it is the largest and most expensive search in aviation history)
    - c) 29 July 2015 a piece of wreckage believed to be from MH370 is found on Reunion Island
    - d) This search ended on August 17 2015 without ever finding the object of the search
- D. Son
  - 1. Luke 15:20; And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

2. Jesus tells these parables to reinforce the idea that He came to find those who are lost and to save them
3. The father represents God
4. The son who left represents Israelites who are sinners (tax collectors, prostitutes, etc.)
5. The son who remained represents the religious leaders of Israel
6. Luke 15:32; It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ”

### III. The Shepherd

- A. God, from the beginning of our time (and even before) has been looking for us who are “still a long way off”
  1. From the Garden; a bruised heel and a crushed head
    - a) The crucifixion is a bruised heel
    - b) I cannot fathom what a crushed head is!
  2. From Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Genesis 12:3; 26:4; 28:14
  3. From Moses; Deuteronomy 18:5
  4. Micah 5:2; But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
  5. In every book of the Old Testament we see God working to bring the Messiah
  6. Throughout the Gospels we see the Messiah Himself, The Shepherd calling His own back to him
  7. John 10:14; I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
- B. God Himself sought us out and purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son

### IV. The Lost

- A. You can see how important seeking the lost is to God
- B. How important is it to us?
- C. Jesus gives his apostles the task of going to all the nations
- D. Matthew 28:18–20; 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- E. God gives us the task of proclaiming the Gospel
  1. Romans 10:11–15; 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
  2. 2 Timothy 2:1–2; 1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- F. We **MUST** be involved in seeking the lost!
- G. In the story of the lost son the Father felt compassion for His lost son
  1. Matthew 9:35–38; 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every

disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

2. Matthew 14:12–14; 12 And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus. 13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
3. And that very evening He feeds the ones who have followed Him, the ones He has healed

V. Compassion

- A. We cannot get caught up feeding ourselves and forgetting the lost sheep
- B. Just as The Shepherd did, we must seek and show the lost the Savior of the world
- C. Our hearts must heart for those who do not know the Messiah!