

Rejoice With Me

Introduction

- Jesus has completed the majority of his ministry – Galilee, Judea, Perea & now He's in Jerusalem.
- He has taught people publically & privately, worked many miracles; has been received by some & rejected by many.
- Jesus continues His ministry to those who are receptive & open to the gospel – those who acknowledge they are sinners (v. 1).
- Jesus' critics & adversaries are aggressively pursuing Him in an effort to discredit Him & neutralize His influence (v. 2).
- In response to His critics, Jesus then tells a parable to reveal the heart of God toward sinners that repent (v.3). A parable is...

I. Joy In Finding One Lost Sheep (v. 4-7)

A. Discerning (v. 4a-b)

A shepherd must be attentive to his flock of sheep. Each day (normally in the evening) he will count the sheep to ensure they were all present & accounted for. If one is missing, he must discern the necessary actions to recover it.

B. Seeking (v. 4c-5b)

A shepherd who values every individual sheep will seek one who has gone astray & is lost. He leaves the flock of sheep that is secure, makes personal sacrifices & perseveres in searching until he finds the lost sheep. Then he ensures that the sheep is brought back & restored in the flock – “lays it on his shoulders”.

C. Rejoicing (v. 5c-6)

Finding the lost sheep brings personal joy & rejoicing to the shepherd. However the shepherd wants to share this joy with others. So he calls neighbors together (who were familiar with his situation) to rejoice with him.

APPL: The emphasis & message of this parable is the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents rather than large numbers of religious unsaved people (v. 7). There is joy over one genuine convert who becomes a disciple rather than masses of people who are actively involved in the church & unsaved – Pharisees (Lk. 6:46).

II. Joy In Finding One Lost Coin (v. 8-10)

A. Discerning (v. 8a-b)

A wise homemaker knows the amount of money or savings she possesses – the type & value of individual denominations [coins]. She must know where the money is kept & be discerning when any coin is missing. This implies that she regularly checks to insure that the money is secure.

B. Seeking (v. 8c-9a)

A wise homemaker values each individual coin because it contributes to the whole amount. Therefore when one coin is lost she makes the necessary sacrifices, utilizes the necessary resources & perseveres in searching until she finds it.

C. Rejoicing (v. 9b-d)

When she has found it she wants to share her joy with others. So she calls neighbors together (who were aware of her situation) to rejoice with her.

APPL: The emphasis & message of this parable is that God & the angels rejoice when one sinner repents regardless of the number of previous converts (v. 10). Every individual convert is precious to God & brings genuine joy in heaven as each one is added to the family of God.

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters Jesus is bringing encouragement to us today just as He did for the 1st century believers. We must see the urgency to seek out lost sinners & we must be willing to make the necessary sacrifices to persevere in evangelism in order to bring them into the family of God & make disciples. But our efforts must be focused on the individual (one by one); spending the necessary time & resources on each individual. And we must find **real joy with every individual** that repents & believes in Jesus. **As a Christian, you may be seeking joy in the wrong places & from wrong things.** Jesus offers real joy in this parable today. Jesus cares for the individual sinner (weak, deceived, discouraged, rich/poor, male/female, young/old... = **LOST**) & we must care for the individual. Everyone church member should rejoice when any church member is used by God to bring one sinner to repentance. We all should long for that joy & long for others to have that joy with us. Come rejoice with me!!!!!!

If you are not a Christian, Jesus is calling on you to believe in Him today! Jesus offers you forgiveness for you sins, the blessing of being in the family of God & heaven as your future home. But you must believe...

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