**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk. 15:7**

**Focal Truth: Jesus graciously associated & welcomed sinners**

The Pharisees accuse the Lord Jesus: **This man receives sinners and eats with them**

**Today we consider the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ, He graciously loved the lost**

**Lord Jesus tells three stories to reveal the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ – Luke 15**

**Observations**

1. **Jesus graciously associated with sinners because he loved them 15:1-2**

*Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him.*

*Both the Pharisees and scribes began to grumble saying,* ***this man receives sinner and eats with them***

1. Sinners were drawn to Jesus

What is a sinner? Someone who lives a life of sinfulness & disobedience to God

**Consider**

Everyone is born a sinner – **2 kinds of sinners: unsaved sinners & saved sinners**

**Coming to Jesus makes you a saved sinner – a sinner saved by grace!**

1. Jesus received (associated) with sinners

He did not live like them but He was salt and light to them

He did not condemn them He loved them even in their sinfulness & sinful ways

**Mk. 2:15 -17 –** *it happened that He was reclining at the table in his house & many tax collectors, & sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples,* ***for there were many of them, and they were following Him.***  *When the Pharisees saw that He was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples,* ***why is he earing and drinking with tax collectors and sinner?*** *hearing this Jesus said,* ***it is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick, I did not come to call the righteous but sinners***

1. **Jesus graciously associated with sinners because they were lost in their sinfulness 15:4**

*Which man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them…*

1. Jesus told the everyday story of lost sheep describing why He associated with sinners
2. Jesus compares sinners to a lost sheep

Sheep wander away from their shepherd

Sheep who wander away become lost – lose their way

**Consider the lostness of sinfulness**

1. Sinners are lost in their sinfulness – Jesus called sinners the lost

Lost = perishing ones, destroyed ones ruined ones

1. Sinners are perishing in their sinfulness
2. Sinners are lost in their sinful selfishness
3. Sinners are lost – spiritually dead
4. Sinners are lost – spiritually blind
5. Sinners are lost – spiritual deaf
6. Sinners are lost – depraved in their mind
7. Sinners are lost without life direction & purpose
8. Sinners are lost – living in atheism & idolatry & sexual perversion

Lk. 15:13 – 14 – *not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that county and he began to be impoverished*

1. Jesus associated & welcomed sinners because they were lost in their sinfulness

Lk. 19:10 – *the son of man has come to seek & to save that which was lost*

1. **Jesus graciously associated with sinners because they must be rescued from their lost sinfulness 15:4**

*If he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety – nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it…*

1. The shepherd searched till he found the lost sheep – *until he finds it*
2. Jesus associated with sinners seeking to lead them to Himself

He taught them the truths about the kingdom of God

He healed the sick

He associated with them speaking to them about the things of God & eternal life

Lk. 19:10 – *the son of man has come to seek & to save that which was lost*

1. Jesus lived among the sinners revealing His authority to save

Lk. 6:5 – *so that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins – He said to the paralytic – I say to you, get up and pick up your stretcher and go home*

Mk. 5:15 - *they came to Jesus & observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed & in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion, and they became frightened*

1. Jesus died on the cross for sinners to rescue them from their lost sinfulness

Gal. 1:4 – *who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age according to the will of our God and Father*

***Consider the rescuer of sinners from their sinfulness – the Lord Jesus Christ!***

1. **Jesus graciously associated with sinners because there is joyfulness in their repentance from their sinfulness 15:5 -7**

*When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends & neighbors, saying to them, rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost! I tell you in the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance*

1. The shepherd found the lost sheep & rejoiced – 15:5
2. The shepherd called his friends to rejoice because he found the lost sheep
3. Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents of their life of sinfulness

Lk. 10:20 – 21 – *nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven. At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well – pleasing in Your sight.*

**Things to remember & Do**

1. **Love sinners like Jesus loved them!**
2. **Rescue the perishing!**
3. **Rejoice in repentant sinners!**

***I tell you in the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance***

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**