**Everyday Stories of Jesus - Luke 15: 8 – 10**

**The gospel ministry of searching & finding the lost**

**Focal Truth: Jesus ministry of searching & finding the lost is the church’s ministry**

**Observations**

1. **The ministry of seeking & finding the lost is like the woman searching for a lost coin**

**Lk. 15:8 -10**

She searched carefully for the lost coin

She searched diligently for the lost coin

She searched relentlessly for the lost coin

She found the lost coin & rejoiced!

1. **The ministry of seeking & finding the lost is the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ Lk.19:10**

*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*

1. John 1 – Jesus is searching and finding his first disciples

1:37 – 39 - He met with two men who were seeking Him & spent the day with them

1:41 - Andrew searched & found his brother Simon & told him, *we have found the Messiah*

1:44 -Jesus purposed to go to Galilee, He found Phillip. And Jesus said to him, Follow Me

1:45 – Phillip found Nathaniel – we have found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prohpets wrote – Jesus of Nazareth

1. John 9 – Jesus found the man he healed of blindness who was put out of the synagogue

*9:35 – 38 - Jesus heard tha they had put him out, and* ***finding him****, he said, Do you believe in the Son of Man? He answered, Who is He? Lord that I may believe in Him? Jesus said, you have both seen Him and He is the one who is talking with you, and he said, Lord, I believe and he worshipped Him*

1. Mark 7 – Jesus went to the land of the gentiles & a Gentile woman begged him to cast the demons out of her daughter

7:24 - *Jesus got up and went away from there to the region of Tyre. He entered a house, He wanted no one to know of it, yet He could not escape notice…a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit fell at his feet, she was a Gentile… she kept asking him to cast the demon out of her daughter… she said, even the dogs get the crumbs from the table…Jesus healed her daughter*

**Consider**

Jesus went searching & finding the lost

Jesus went preaching while searching

Jesus went searching meeting with all kinds of people, in all kinds of situations

1. **The ministry of seeking & finding the lost is the mission of the church Matt. 28: 18 -20**

*Go and make disciples of all the nations…* **this is the duty of searching & finding the lost!**

1. Peter’s ministry of seeking and finding the lost – Acts 9 -10

9:32 – *now Peter was traveling through all the regions – Judea, Galilee and Samaria*

9:33 – *he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you, get up and make your bed immediately he got up*

9:36 – *it happened that Tabitha a woman of good deeds fell sick & died…Peter went knelt and prayed turning to the body he said, Tabitha arise. And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up…he presented her alive*

10:1 – 2 – *a man named Cornelius a centurian, one who feared God..*

Peter came & preached the gospel to the lost house of the Centurian & they were saved.

1. Paul’s ministry of seeking and finding the lost – Acts 16

Paul is traveling searching & finding the lost

Paul goes to Phillipi – a Roman city – he stayed there for some days

16:13 – *on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer, and we day down and began speaking to the women who had been assembled. A woman named Lydia, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshipper of God was listening, and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. She and her household believed & were baptized as believers*

16:16 – *it happened as they were going to the place of prayer, a slave girl having a demon met us, she kept crying, these men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation. Paul said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out at that very moment.*

16:30 – 31 - *sirs, what must I do to be saved? they said, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. he was baptized. He brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced having believed in God with his whole household!*

1. When you search for sinners you go **everywhere**

We search for the seeker looking for God

We search for the broken in their sinful condition

We search for the needy without any help

We search for the forgotten with no one to love them

We search for the helpless who have no one to help them

1. When you search for sinners **you go to everyone**
2. When you search for sinners **you go into everykind of situation**
3. When you search for sinners **you go bringing them to Jesus**
4. When you search for sinners **you go resuce them from their sin**

Jude 1:23 – *save others, snatching them out of the fire*…

**Consider**

FBCD mission team trekking in south asia went searching & finding the person of peace

They came on a woman who heard the gospel but said, she was afraid to believe in Jesus because her husband would beat her. She believed the gospel and now is part of a church! **Searching & finding this is gospel ministry**

**Things to remember & do**

1. The lost are loved by God so we search for them
2. We are called to search for the lost!
3. Joy comes in finding what is lost!

**In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents**

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