

“Angry Birds”
Christian: It’s Not What You Think, Part 6
November 5th, 2017

John 1:14 (NIV) “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Jesus wasn’t the balance of grace and truth; Jesus was the full **EMBODIMENT** of grace and truth

Jesus was surrounded by two groups: one group who felt so alienated from God that He would **NEVER** approve of them, and another group who felt they were so good that God **ALREADY** approved of them. Both were **WRONG!**

Luke 15:1 (NIV) “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.”

Luke 15:2 (NIV) “But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’”

Jesus was never worried about “**GUILT** by association”

Jesus tells a series of parables about – not sinners – but **LOST** things in which we discover that God views sinners as “lost” as in **SEPARATED**

Luke 15:3-7 (NIV) “³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

Luke 15:8-10 (NIV) “⁸ Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

When you lose something precious, it has your **UNDIVIDED** attention; there is an **EARNESTNESS** in the search

Luke 15:11-16 (NIV) “¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.”

If Jesus had ended the story here, in His culture everyone would have thought – **GREAT** story! The boy is getting what he **DESERVED**

Luke 15:17-20 (NIV) “¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with...”

Jesus’ audience would say he was filled with **ANGER** – righteous **INDIGNATION**
Luke 15: 20 (NIV) “...compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

Now the audience is **CONFUSED** – remember Jesus is the embodiment of **GRACE** & **TRUTH**

Luke 15:21-24 (NIV) “²¹ The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But 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. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”

Luke 15:25-28 (NIV) ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ The older brother became angry and refused to go in...”

The audience was confused because none of them understood what God the Father is like & how God views **SINNERS**

Luke 15:28-32 (NIV) “...So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”

You can become an angry Christian if you think you **DESERVE** something from God that somebody else might get; you’ll very likely be a “good Christian,” but you’re not **LIKE** Jesus

Luke 15:31-32 (NIV) ³¹ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

This isn’t about performance or sowing & reaping – this is about **PROXIMITY**

God could not love you **MORE**; nothing you do will cause Him to love you **LESS**

God loves you no matter **WHAT** you’ve done, but He doesn’t love you **BECAUSE** of what you’ve done

God never gets **MAD** at lost things – neither do you, you **LOOK** for them! God wants you **BACK** – found

Sin should **BREAK** our hearts because it breaks **PEOPLE**

We should view people who are in rebellion against God as **LOST/SEPARATED**

Repentance should **STIR** our hearts

If you are a prodigal, realize your sin is hurting **YOU** and **OTHERS**

God is not mad at you, God is heartbroken because sin has a **“GOTCHA”**

The longer you run, the worse it will be – **COME** home

Luke 5:32 (NIV) “[Jesus said] I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 19:10 (NIV) “[Jesus said] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

My Next Step Today Is:

- I feel I’ve been a prodigal, and I want to come home to God (and New Hope)
- God, I am asking you to help me see those who don’t have a relationship with you as being lost & separated from You

Next week: Join us as we continue this series by exploring “Loopholes.” Invite a friend!

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God loves you no matter _____ you’ve done, but He doesn’t love you _____ of what you’ve done

God never gets _____ at lost things – neither do you, you _____ for them! God wants you _____ – found

Sin should _____ our hearts because it breaks _____

We should view people who are in rebellion against God as _____

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