

The Miracle of Mercy - Week 4

You Matter to God

November 4, 2018

He saved us — not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy — through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

'LOSTNESS' implies value

Jesus told 3 stories to explain what it meant:

- "The Lost Sheep" (Luke 15:1-7)
- "The Lost Coin" (Luke 15:8-10)
- "The Lost Son" (Luke 15:11-31)

WHAT DO I LOSE WHEN I'M SPIRITUALLY "LOST"?

Like a lost sheep . . .

- 1. I lose my direction.**
- 2. I lose God's protection.**

Like a lost coin . . .

- 3. I lose my potential.**

Like a lost son . . .

- 4. I lose my happiness.**

After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing. Luke 15:14

- 5. I lose my home in heaven.**

For what does it benefit someone if he gains the whole world, and yet loses or forfeits himself? Luke 9:25

Our wandering nature separates us from God
Our circumstances can separate us from God
Our choices separate us from God

But I don't lose my value!

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

How does God's mercy "save" me?

1. Salvation rescues me from myself.

Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. He became a human and gave himself to rescue all of us. 1 Timothy 2:5

2. Salvation recovers my potential.

Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

3. Salvation reconnects you to God.
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

How do I connect with God's mercy?

1. **Get fed up with my life.**
...he wasted it all...he had nothing left ...he got desperate and hungry ...then he finally came to his senses . . Luke 15:13-17

2. **Own up to my sin.**

When he came to his senses, he said... 'I have sinned against God and you ...' Luke 15:17-18

3. **Offer up myself.**

The son drifted away saying "GIVE ME MY share"...He returned to the Father saying "MAKE ME a servant" Luke 15:12, 19

THE FATHER'S RESPONSE

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15:20