



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

### Once Lost . . . Now Found

**Focus Verse:** Luke 19:10 – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 15:1-10; 19:1-10

**Truth About God:** The Messiah's mission is to seek and to save the lost.

**Truth For My Life:** I will celebrate that Jesus sought me and saved me.

Being lost means we have become disconnected from what makes us feel secure. It takes away our sense of balance in life and leaves us looking for something. Lost means that what was once clearly seen and visible is now hidden from sight. Being lost can also bring about the greatest feeling of aloneness a human being can experience.

Far beyond any danger of being physically lost is being spiritually lost. The Word of God is a clear path for anyone wanting to be saved. Becoming distracted by the things of this world can cause us to leave the well-worn path and become lost. One distraction after another leads us farther from God. But when we are spiritually lost, all is not hopeless. Luke 19:10 tells us, "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*" Take Heart. While we are looking to be saved, God is looking to save us. The Lord will go to great extremes to find each lost soul.

John 3:16 reads, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.*" His love was so deep for lost humanity that He was willing to die as a sacrifice for our sins. **Jesus loved you enough that He died for you before you were even born.** John 15:13-14 gives us amazing insight into His love, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*" Since the beginning of time, the Lord has been reaching for people. Imperfect, weak, discouraged, disillusioned, disappointed, or defeated—He loves us all. There has never been a sinner whom God has not loved.

In Luke 15, Jesus began a trio of parables by telling of the shepherd who counted his sheep only to realize one was missing. Although ninety-nine sheep were accounted for, the shepherd set out to find the one lost sheep. He knew the sheep would die if left separated from the flock. At that moment, the one lost sheep was as valuable to him as the ninety-nine that were safe. The second parable is of the woman who lost a silver coin. It may have been a drachma, which was equal to a day's wages. She had ransacked her own house, but she found the coin. The joy of the shepherd finding the lost sheep and the woman finding the lost coin pale in comparison to Jesus finding a lost sinner. Luke 15:10 tells us, "*Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*" People place great value on money and possessions, but the Lord places greater value on people.

In Luke 19, we meet Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector. Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus, but he knew it was not going to be easy. He ran ahead of the crowd and found a sycamore tree in the direct path where Jesus was walking. Zacchaeus climbed the tree because he wanted to see Jesus, but within just a few moments, Jesus was looking for him. Luke 19:5 reads, "*And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.*" The short, despised tax collector came down out of the tree quicker than he went up it. Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully. Jesus let Zacchaeus and the crowd know why He had come to Jericho. "*This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:9-10).

Think back to the moment you realized you were lost and needed God to save you. Then think about when you were born again of the water and the Spirit. There is no feeling on earth quite like it. Every day we should seek to recapture that same joy. The words of the hymn "**Amazing Grace**" need to become our testimony, "*I once was lost, but now I'm found.*"

We cannot find ourselves spiritually. We do not have the power within ourselves to save ourselves from sin. No matter how hard we try, we will still be lost. Jesus never stopped looking for us. He never lets anything stand in the way of Him finding a lost person. The parables of the lost coin and the lost sheep are evidence of that. The story of Jesus going out of His way to find Zacchaeus shows us just how much He loves the lost. Whether you were lost in the house, separated from the sheepfold, or Jesus found you up a tree somewhere, He was looking for you and did not stop looking until He found you.