



Raise the Roof: For the Lost

SERMON RECAP

In his sermon, Matt Allman reminded us that Christianity has always been a rescue mission. Luke 15 demonstrates God's longing for those who are far from Him with three different stories: The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep, and the Lost Son. One step at a time, Satan is trying to walk us away from God into shame and despair. God wants to bring us from shame to dignity, from being estranged to a part of the family, from a slave to a beloved child. We know when we are far from God, but we are always in the Father's heart. We think that we are searching for God, but it is Him that doesn't stop looking for us. Don't forget your rescue story and continue on in the mission to help rescue others.

GET STARTED

- Matt started with the story of how he thought he lost something valuable. **Have you ever panicked because you thought you lost something? Do you remember how relieved you were when you found it?**

TAKE IT IN

- **What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

TALK IT OVER

Read Luke 15:1-2

- Jesus was surrounded by both the self-righteous, Pharisee's, and the unrighteous, sinners. Both are far from Jesus, but in different ways. **Discuss these differences. Which category would you put yourself into? What do you need to repent of and continue to guard your heart from?**

Read Luke 15:3-10

- What kind of God do you think you come back to? A judge? A father that is never satisfied? Our God longs for what is lost to be returned to its rightful place. Verse 7 echoes the fact that God wants to have a relationship with us. **What kind of God do you think you come back to? How can you start to see God for who He truly is?**

Read Luke 15:11-20

- Just like the Lost Son, we know when we are far from home. One little step at a time, Satan walks us farther and farther away from God until we realize just how far we've gone. When the son is heading home, he is trying to get his story straight, but that didn't even matter. The father came running to his son. **What does that tell you about the Father's love for us? Are you far from home or trying to get your story straight before you come back to God? If you are ready to come back home, embrace God with open arms as the beloved child you are.**

Read Luke 15:20-32

- Notice what the father gives the son. The robe would bring him from a place of shame to a place of dignity. The ring would change him from being estranged to a part of the family. The sandals would bring him from slavery into sonship. **Which gift do you need to accept from the Father? If you are living in shame, put on His robe. Put on the ring and be adopted into the family of God as the cherished son or daughter you are. If you feel like you have to earn his love, put on the sandals and know His love is freely given.**
- As Jesus followers, it can be easy to become the brother. Our relationship with the Father can become transactional. We begin to forget all the kindness, forgiveness, and provision God has already given us because He loves us. **How can you guard your heart against a transactional relationship with God? Take time in your group to each share a story of how God has come through for you.**

LIVE IT OUT

As a group, don't forget your rescue stories. If you haven't had a time to share your testimonies, schedule a time to do that together. And don't forget your rescue mission. God has called us to help spread His Word and make disciples. Repent and be baptized, that's how you come home! Guard your heart against self-righteousness and rejoice in more brothers and sisters coming home. The heart of heaven is cheering you on!

Memorize:

"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him."

Luke 15:20