

Get Found

Long Beach Alliance Church • Easter Sunday • April 20, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

~Luke 15:7 (English Standard Version)

1) Isn't It Easy To Get Distracted?!

- A) Jesus spent a great deal of time with "messy people," the 'frauds, broads, and mobs' of sinners (Luke 15:1). The "tax collectors" were hated for their business practices (highway robbery), and the "sinners" were the general category for the non-religious people.
- B) The religious leaders of the day included the Pharisees (a powerful group of dedicated rule-followers, famed for "hedging" the Law of God with more rules) and the Scribes (the lawyers who supported the interpretations of the Pharisees). Jesus' popularity among the "sinners" did not endear him to these powerful leaders (15:2).
- C) Of course, as you might expect, Jesus did not give a hoot about what the religious leaders thought about Him. Jesus came for those who needed help, and with laser-like focus, explained His actions.

2) Jesus Came Back To Find YOU! Get Found Kid!

- A) Jesus explains His actions with the "sinners" through a parable (short story with important spiritual truth). Jesus didn't come for those who were "righteous," but came to find the lost (15:3-7).
- B) Today, as we celebrate the wondrous miracle of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (cf. Luke 24:36-49), we should be continually mindful of Christ's eternal purpose -- He loves finding those who are lost!
- C) Get found! Trusting faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9) by God's Word (Romans 10:17) rooted in His perfect work (Hebrews 11:6), leads to a transformed life, completely new (2 Corinthians 5:17)!