

“The Worth of ONE”

Luke 15:1-10 Sunday AM, March 15, 2026

Prelude: Scripture: Luke 14:33-15:10 (NASB95) “So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” 1 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. 2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3 So He told them this parable, saying, 4 “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 “When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ 7 “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8 “Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 “When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’ 10 “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Jesus kingdom WILL grow. You look around and wonder how because you see many who showed interest walking away. Remember the mustard seed and the leaven? Strive to enter the narrow gate. Why so hard? Hard is a given. Jesus, Herod desires to kill you. “Go tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal. . . for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem.’” Jesus perish?!? What a goal! Yes, because Jesus is BOTH Judge and Savior. He heals the man suffering from dropsy, and judges those who profess reverence for God but don’t represent Him in their piety concerning the sabbath. Jesus publicly addressed motives behind where people sit and who was invited. Among those you invite should be those WITHOUT ability to repay in ANY way. Above all, don’t miss eating at the banquet to which Jesus has invited you. Excuses means facing great anger for the insult and exclusion from the banquet as the uninvited who DIDN’T have means to repay WOULD come when invited. All this cuts against today’s “come as you are and if it fits.” Last week, Jesus laid out more of the realities of discipleship. “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. What makes you hesitate, even stop following Jesus? Count the cost, do you have enough for the building, for the battle? Jesus WILL be first. If His followers would be like Him, there can be no other way. . . salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? His own are His special, peculiar people. It IS tough, but if it isn’t, you would be left with your own ways, your own god. Yield and among all the things that change, will be the joy of finding a treasure hidden in a field—let Jesus be your joy.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Come People of the Risen King

1 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. 2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” Sinners wanted to hear what God says—good or bad? Good, but they look like, say, do, make a mess—don’t feel safe—bad. Jesus said, “Baaaaa” 4 “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? What does Jesus mean, sheep gone, go get the one? He is saying that they are no different than you. I care for my sheep. For whom do YOU care? ALL who will listen to God’s word? Who is the sheep God has put around you whom your life shows is not your problem to pursue? Watch the danger of hiding behind “I tried, or it’s not my fault.” The Father pursues. He did it in the OT. Jesus did it on earth. Contemplate the mercy of God.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Merciful (At the Cross Where Jesus Suffered) *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: I Will Make All

Things New Scripture: Zephaniah 3:1–20 (NASB95) Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city! 2 She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the LORD, She did not draw near to her God. 3 Her princes within her are roaring lions, Her judges are wolves at evening; They leave nothing for the morning. 4 Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men; Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law. 5 The LORD is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame. 6 “I have cut off nations; Their corner towers are in ruins. I have made their streets desolate, With no one passing by; Their cities are laid waste, Without a man, without an inhabitant. 7 “I said, ‘Surely you will reverence Me, Accept instruction.’ So her dwelling will not be cut off According to all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds. 8 “Therefore wait for Me,” declares the LORD, “For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. 9 “For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder. 10 “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings. 11 “In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain. 12 “But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. 13 “The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths; For they will feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble.” 14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. 16 In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: “Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. 17 “The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. 18 “I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts— They came from you, O Zion; The reproach of exile is a burden on them. 19 “Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth. 20 “At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” Says the LORD.

Offering: *Doxology:

5 “When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.” Do you believe you can be a recipient of the Father’s joy? Old song about this account that D L Moody’s songleader, Ira Sankey wrote. Sing it with me.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Ninety and Nine

You may be seated. We talk about the mercy of God, but do you see it? Zephaniah. What SHOULD God do when people “accept no instruction” “she did not trust in the Lord, she did not draw near to her God?” “I said, ‘Surely you will reverence Me, Accept instruction.’ So her dwelling will not be cut off According to all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds.” What should God do? Judge them.

Where is their hope? In the merciful work of God to undeserving people. 9 “For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder. 11 “In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain. 12 “But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. What are the sheep the Shepherd cares for characterized by? Repentance. And what is the Father’s response to His work to bring them to repentance? Joy. 7 “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Are you one of the repenters? Yes, initially, but does your life show life of repenting and submitting to Father’s will? This is the path of fellowship with God and these know the joy of the Father. Pray this as Pastor prepares to preach.

*Hymn #436: Whiter Than Snow

Message: “The Worth of ONE” Luke 15:1-10 *Hymn #89: Our Great Savior *Prayer